# History of Contemporary Philosophy (Second-level degree)

## Prof. Giuseppe D'Anna

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

What is meant by ‘phenomenological attitude’? Is it truly possible to theorise a pure conscience that do not intersect with psychological issues? After all, since its origins (and due to its nature), philosophy has always been wedded to the suspension of natural or naive behaviours, in order to focus on the essential structures of the world of the self. The course aims to examine Husserl’s phenomenology, highlighting its main cruxes, especially in relation to the issue of knowledge. For this reason, it will analyse Husserl’s essay *Phenomenology and the theory of knowledge*, published in 1917.

1. Provide students an overall historical-philosophical and critical-conceptual framework of Husserl’s thought.

2. Carry out an analysis of Husserl’s positions in relation to the main concepts of his thought, such as: ‘conscience’, ‘phenomenological attitude’, ‘transcendence’, ‘pure conscience’, ‘intentionality’, etc.

3. Test, from an analytical and a critical perspective, the theoretical-conceptual and historical-philosophical solidity of Husserl’s positions on the issue of knowledge.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Be acquainted with and gain in-depth knowledge about Husserl’s thought in general and, more specifically, regarding the concepts detailed in course objective no. 2.

2. acquire and develop the ability to apply the philosophical lexicon and conceptual devices learned by analysing the text to the historical and philosophical context examined on the course, and also to apply the same skills to other historical and philosophical contexts.

3. communicate and explain philosophical theories in relation to the topics covered, taking into account the conceptual devices and lexical tools acquired on the course.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will be focused on Husserl’s work *Phenomenology and the theory of knowledge*, published in 1917. After a short but accurate introduction to the author’s thought, the course will analyse the way in which Husserl theorises the relationship between phenomenology and the theory of knowledge, rejecting any psychologistic solutions.

***READING LIST***

E. Husserl, *Fenomenologia e teoria della conoscenza,* intr., tr., and critical apparatus by P. Volonté, Bompiani, Milan 2000.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be delivered by means of lectures with active student participation. Students can also submit papers for presentation and discussion during the course. Visiting experts on Husserl will also hold seminars in which students will be invited to interact. The material available to the student will be optimised with the support of the Blackboard platform on the University website ([*http://blackboard.unicatt.it*](about:blank)).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam.

The exam is designed to ascertain: 1) that students have read the course texts closely and in full; 2) students’ ability to present the content and logical structure of these texts faithfully and accurately; 3) students’ aptitude for presenting arguments and clearly expressing even difficult and complex concepts; 4) student’s use of appropriate style and lexicon.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students must have a text bookish knowledge of the history of contemporary philosophy. Further information may be provided at the beginning of lectures and posted on the lecturer’s noticeboard in the Department of Philosophy (Edificio Gregorianum, 3rd floor, room 308).

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.