**History of Ancient Metaphysics**

Prof. Nicoletta Scotti

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

The course (6 ECTS) aims to provide an overview of the main conceptions of time and eternity of ancient philosophical thought, on the basis of the texts written by each author covered by the course programme and with reference to some voices of more recent critical debate.

At the end of the course, students will have acquired the ability to 1. Present the positions of the single authors based on the texts and to place them in the respective historical-theoretical contexts. 2. Detect the different connotations of temporal experience through the lexicon tools developed by the authors covered during the course. 3. Use bibliographic repertories and have access to relevant computer tools.

***COURSE CONTENT***

During the course, the positions of the following authors will be examined: Anaximander, Heraclitus, Parmenides, Zeno, Plato (from: *Parmenides, Timaeus* and *Politicus*), Aristotles (*Phys*. IV), Stoics, Epicurus, Plotinus (*Enn*. III 7) and Augustine (*Conf.* 10, 11-37 and 11, 15-38) grouping them within the following thematic nuclei:

1. Mythical time and cosmic time.
2. Time, moment and eternity.
3. Time, space and movement.
4. Time and intellectual intuition.
5. Time and memory

***READING LIST***

1. Sources

Students may refer to the following translations: *I Presocratici. Traduzione integrale con testi a fronte della raccolta di Hermann Diels e Walther Kranz*, edited by G. Reale, Bompiani 2006. Platone: *Tutti gli scritti*, edited by G. Reale, Bompiani 2001. Alternatively: edtions of single dialogues. Aristotele, *Fisica*, Introduction, translation, notes and critical apparatus edited by R. Radice, Bompiani 2011. Aristotele: *Fisica* IV, parallel text in Greek, edited by L.M. Castelli, Carocci 2012. Stoici antichi: *Tutti i frammenti*, Introduction, translation and notes edited by R. Radice, Bompiani 2002. *Eternità e tempo*: Plotino, *Enneadi* III 7, Introductory essay, text with translation and commentary by W. Beierwaltes, Vita e Pensiero 1995. Agostino: *Confessioni*, Introductory monograph, translation, notes and table of contents by G. Reale, Bompiani 2012.

1. Critical literature: Anthology of articles also in foreign languages.
2. Course lecture notes

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures alternating with seminar discussions. The Blackboard platform will be used to transmit lesson protocols and to communicate with the group.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Assessment coefficients: attendance and active participation in the course (20%); presentation in the classroom of a critical essay chosen by the student with a written paper of approx. 1,500 words on the subject (30%); final oral exam (50%) that will focus on: 1. Analytical exposition of the two source texts, linking them with the theoretical nuclei specified in the programme; 2. Three questions on course lecture notes. Assessment criteria will include proficiency in the use of the lexicon, analytical exposition skills and argumentative skills.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are advised to attend all the lectures. Non-attending students may agree on an alternative programme, subject to making timely arrangements with the lecturer. There are no prerequisites in order for students to attend the course, although it would be desirable for them to have already acquired a basic knowledge of the history of ancient philosophy.

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