# Theories of Knowledge in the Contemporary Age

## Prof. Roberta Corvi

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

The course aims to provide an overview of the main epistemological theories developed by contemporary thinking and to propose some critical ideas, prevalently following the debate that has developed during the 20th century around the notions of knowledge, intentionality, truth, objectivity and method.

The second module will address a problem that emerge from many contemporary thinkers and that concerns the role of philosophy in contemporary world, in particular with regard to its cognitive function.

At the end of the course, students will know the main epistemological theories and understand the issues from which they originated; they will also be able to grasp the connections and relationships between contemporary and modern epistemology.

Students will also be able to identify the intellectual connections between various authors and theoretical contexts in relation to specific epistemological issues; they will also be able to reflect critically on epistemological theories, identifying their strengths and weaknesses, and to evaluate their arguments.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module 1

– Knowledge in contemporary philosophy: purpose, method and outcome of knowledge.

– Knowledge and language.

– from knowledge as *episteme* to knowledge as *doxa*

– naive knowledge and critical knowledge

– objective knowledge and intersubjectivity

– rationality in front of the complexity of reality.

*Module A*

The objectivity of knowledge:

– the relationship between knowledge and truth: epistemic and non-epistemic concepts;

– objective truth as a condition for knowledge

– the subjective-objective dichotomy and the concept of intersubjectivity.

***READING LIST***

Module 1

R. Corvi, *Frontiere aperte. Verso un’epistemologi transdisciplinare,* Scholé-Morcelliana, Brescia 2023.

R. Corvi, *Né roccia né palude,* in L. Urbani Ulivi, *Strutture di mondo*, Il Mulino, Bologna 2013, vol. II, p. 227-260.

One text chosen by the student from a list provided during the course.

Module A

D. Davidson, *Soggettivo, intersoggettivo, oggettivo*, Cortina, Milan 2003. Chs. 3, 7, 9-14

K. Popper, *Conoscenza oggettiva*, Armando, Rome 2002. Chs. 3, 4, 6.

H. Putnam, *Ragione, verità e storia*, Educatt, Milan 2021, Chs. 6, 7, 9

R. Rorty, *La filosofia e lo specchio della natura*, Bompiani, Milan 2004. Chs. 7, 8

Further information on the reading list will be made available at the beginning of the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exams for both modules.

Assessment criteria: correctness and completeness of the informations provided, mastry of specific language, argumentative skills, critical reworking of the topics covered.

For each module, there are three questions covering different parts of the course. Students will be assessed according to the following criteria and levels:

* relevance and accuracy of information learned (pass);
* relevance, accuracy and fullness of information learned; ability to make conceptual links (fair);
* relevance and accuracy of the information learned; ability to make conceptual links; ability to present information and make sound arguments (good);
* relevance and accuracy of the information learned; ability to make conceptual links; ability to present information and make sound arguments; critical interpretation of the issues in question (excellent).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students will be required basic knowledge of the history of philosophy, in particular modern and contemporary philosophy.

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.