# Philosophy and Languages Theory

## Prof. Savina Raynaud

COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Transform the reading of a philosophical text from a private and silent act to a conscious and objectifiable process of linguistic decoding, textual understanding, recognition of referents and predicate-argument structure. Infer the macrostructure of a text and assign it its own literary genre. Reconstruct the transformation of public philosophical dialogue, through teaching in the form of commentary and the structure of a public *quaestio*, up to meditation and the different literary genres of modern and contemporary philosophy.

The courseaimsto provide students with a concise but systematic knowledge of philosophical writing and the processes for approaching its textuality, internalisation and reworking of philosophical argumentation.

COURSE CONTENT

The "linguistic philosophy" project, i.e., caring for language in the establishment of philosophical discourse, through the history of philosophy.

From textual linguistics, through propositional semantics, to pragmatics: the role of the notion of predicate, nominal phrases and verbal phrases; anaphora and cataphora, illocutionary forces.

The esoteric and exoteric level of philosophical communication, the relationship between sources and philosophical historiography.

READING LIST

A selection of articles and a choice of classic readings that, with the slides and course materials, will be available on Blackboard.

TEACHING METHOD

Frontal theory lectures, with historical insights and the illustration of case studies.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

Oral exam to evaluate:

– the ability to move from a pre-theoretical semantic competence (implicit and intuitive) to progressively explicit and critically founded basic semantic-pragmatic theory;

– the ability to apply this knowledge to actual texts of philosophical literature.

The assessment will be based 50% on students' knowledge of the theory, 25% on their ability to explain chosen passages by authors whose texts are provided, and 25% on their ability to apply the theory to short texts administered at the end of the exam.

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

The course is semester-based, lasting 30 hours.

At this initial establishment of the course, no prerequisites related to the discipline are required. A general course in the philosophy of language, where present in the curriculum, will undoubtedly facilitate access to this course.

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.