History of Philosophy

## Prof. Elena Rapetti; Prof. Giuseppe D’Anna

Module 1 - *Prof. Elena Rapetti*

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

The course aims to provide students with solid and basic knowledge of the main philosophical movements of the modern age, based on the thought of the most important thinkers of the modern age.

At the end of the course, students will be able to identify the issues that shape modern philosophy - epistemological, ontological and anthropological - in their historical contexts, and illustrate the corresponding responses of the major Modern philosophers. Moreover, students will be able to make critical comparisons between the doctrines of the various authors.

***COURSE CONTENT***

*Modernity in question: from the scientific revolution to Hegel.*

The aim of the course is to introduce the most important thinkers, historical events and concepts of the history of modern philosophy of the 17th - 19th centuries, by analysing and commentating the main texts by the authors of modernity.

***READING LIST***

To prepare for the exam, in addition to the material provided in class and/or available on the Blackboard platform, students will choose one of the following texts:

S. Vanni Rovighi, *Storia della filosofia moderna. Dalla rivoluzione scientifica a Hegel*, La Scuola, Brescia 1976 (capp. I-III; VI-IX; XI-XII; XIV; XVII; XX-XIV).

M. Marianelli – L. Mauro – M. Moschini – G. D’Anna, *Anima, corpo, relazioni. Storia della filosofia da una prospettiva antropologica. 2. Periodo moderno*, Città Nuova, Roma 2023 (pp. 101-229; pp- 249-265; pp. 325-371; pp. 381-429).

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be delivered by means of frontal lectures in class. The course will maximise the material provided to students through use of the Blackboard platform, which is accessible via the university website ([*http://blackboard.unicatt.it*)](http://blackboard.unicatt.it)).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be examined by means of an oral exam, in which they will answer questions on the contents of the texts on the reading list and the material provided in lectures and/or on the university Blackboard platform. The oral exam is designed to assess 1) that students know how to frame historically the streams of thought, the authors addressed in the course and their most important works; 2) present and discuss the theories clearly and accurately, including by introducing comparisons. It will also assess their understanding of key technical terms in the philosophical lexicon.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

For students enrolled on the year-long History of Philosophy course, Module 1 must be taken before Module 2. The final mark will be out of 30 and cover both modules.

There are no prerequisites for attending the 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.

Module 2 – *Prof. Giuseppe D’Anna*

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

Atheism and scepticism have launched their attacks on faith through the concept of matter; this is why Berkeley disputes its legitimacy to the point of stating the principle of its metaphysical immaterialism: being is that which one perceives. The aim of the course is to examine Berkeley's argument and his refutation of the theory of abstract ideas, starting with the text *Treatise on the Principles of Human Knowledge.*

The specific course aims are the following:

* To provide students with a comprehensive historical-philosophical and theoretical picture of Berkeley's thinking;
* To conduct a conceptual and lexical comparison between Berkeley's philosophy and other authors of modernity (Locke, Hume);
* To analyse in depth some concepts of Berkeley's thinking.

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

* Know and learn in depth the philosophy of Berkeley;
* Know and develop the ability to apply the philosophical lexicon learned during the analysis of the text to the Spinoza historical-philosophical context and to modern rationalism;
* Communicate and clearly argue Berkeley's philosophical positions, using appropriate technical language.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will focus on the analysis of Berkeley's thinking with particular reference to the *Treatise on the Principles of Human Knowledge*: if being is that which one perceives, then what about the world when no one perceives it? What supports a perception that guarantees being without the aid of the concept of matter? Using the text, the course will try to answer these questions.

***READING LIST***

Berkeley, *Trattato sui principi della conoscenza umana,* a cura di D. Bertini, Bompiani, Milano 2017.

Sofia vanni Rovighi, *Gnoseologia*, ScHolé, Brescia 2021

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be delivered by means of frontal lectures and involve active student participation, both in terms of discussion and the potential presentation of papers for discussion during the course. Material available to students will be optimised through the use of the Blackboard platform, available via the University website [*http://blackboard.unicatt.it*)](http://blackboard.unicatt.it)).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Assessment will be based on an oral exam.

In relation to the contents of the course, the exam is designed to verify: 1) that students have scrupulously read the books on the reading list in full; 2) students’ ability to present the books' contents and logical structure accurately and precisely; 3) students’ skill in arguing an issue and clearly expressing even the most challenging and complicated concepts; 4) students' use of suitable and proper language style and vocabulary.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites. Further information may be provided at the beginning of lectures and posted on the noticeboard in the Department of 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.