# History of Contemporary Philosophy

## Prof. Lorenzo Fossati; Prof. Giuseppe D’Anna

## Module 1: *Prof. Lorenzo Fossati*

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

The aim of the course is to provide a critical presentation of contemporary philosophy’s authors and schools from a historical perspective. In particular, the learning objectives of the course are:

1. Awareness of the specific nature of research in the field of historical philosophy, with a particular focus on the vocabulary and on the general challenges of the historiographical interpretation;

2. A critical approach to philosophical texts and content, in context and related to the subsequent and contemporary debate.

At the end of the course, students will:

1. Know and understand the main developments in the history of philosophy from the nineteenth century to today;

2. Have acquired and be able to develop and apply this understanding, enabling them to critically approach philosophical texts;

3. Know how to communicate information on the principal authors and main schools of thought in contemporary philosophy using specialist lexicon.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will cover the topics and main schools of thought in contemporary philosophy: the difference between the Right and Left Hegelians; Schopenhauer, the revivals and development of Kantism; Marx and the different interpretations of Marxism; Kierkegaard and existentialism up to Jaspers and Sartre; positivism and neopositivism; pragmatism; Nietzsche; spiritualism and Bergson; psychoanalysis; Croce and Gentile; Brentano, Husserl and the outcomes of phenomenology; Heidegger and contemporary hermeneutics; Russell, Wittgenstein and the parable of analytical philosophy; from Structuralism to Post-Structuralism, from Deconstructionism to Post-Modernism; Popper and subsequent epistemological reflection; Neo-Scholasticism.

***READING LIST***

S. Vanni Rovighi, *Storia della filosofia contemporanea,* La Scuola, Brescia, 1980 ss. (chapters II; III; V; VI §§ 1-4; VIII; IX; XII §§ 3-4; XIII § 1; XIV; XV; XVIII; XIX; XXI §§ 1-7; XXIV; XXV; XXVI).

G. Fornero-S. Tassinari, *Le filosofie del Novecento,* Bruno Mondadori, Milan, 2002 (chapters 1; 3 § 1; 25; 26; 27; 34 §§ 1-2; 35; 36; 37 §§ 1 e 5; 38; 46 § 2).

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures. Lectures may sometimes take the form of interactive seminars with visiting academics and specialists on the various topics. Material available to students will be optimised through the use of the Blackboard platform, available via the University website.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam designed to evaluate students’: 1) knowledge of the philosophers and schools of thought on the syllabus; 2) ability to present the books’ contents and structure accurately and precisely; 3) skill in arguing an issue and clearly expressing even the most challenging and complicated concepts; 4) use of suitable and proper language style and vocabulary.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students must possess basic knowledge of the historical development of ancient, medieval and modern philosophy.

For students enrolled on the year-long History of Contemporary Philosophy course, Module 1 must be taken before Module 2. There will be a final mark out of 30 for both modules combined.

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.

## Module 2: *Prof. Giuseppe D’Anna*

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

What are values? Are they real? Do they exist regardless of the subject? Are they related to the cultural environment and the historical era? Are they current or eternal? Why are some values valid in certain eras but do not seem to apply in others? These are the questions that the course aims to address through the analysis of Nicolai Hartmann's thought.

In particular, the objectives of the course are as follows:

* To provide students with an overview of Nicolai Hartmann's philosophy from a historical as well as philosophical perspective.
* Analyse from a historical-philosophical and theoretical-speculative perspective the Hartmannian ideas of "value", "ontology of values", "person", "freedom", "responsibility", and "tyranny of values".

By the end of the course, students will:

* possess and be able to acquire further in-depth knowledge of the historical and philosophical issues linked to the concept of virtue as understood by Hartmann.
* know and be able to develop their ability to apply the philosophical lexicon learned during the analysis of the text to the historical and philosophical context, especially the philosophical movements of the late-nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century.
* be able to clearly communicate and explain the philosophical lexicon and concepts learned using appropriate technical language.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will focus on analysing the concept of reality as it is investigated in Hartmann's *Ontology of Values*. The Hartmannian axiological conception will be placed within this context, based on a real ontology that can also deal with the historicisation of values themselves.

***READING LIST***

Nicolai Hartmann, *Ontologia dei valori,* a cura di G. D’Anna, Morcelliana, Brescia 2011.

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 possibility of producing papers to present and discuss 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***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam.

This is designed to verify, in relation to the course topics: 1) that students have scrupulously read unabridged versions of the books on the reading list; 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.