-. Topics and Problems of Philosophy

Prof. Ingrid Basso

COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course aims to involve students in a process of reflection on the meaning of *practising philosophy* and on the modalities of the *dialogue practice* that underlies it. We will analyse the essential characteristics of the type of knowledge we define as philosophical, its method and, in particular, the form of communication that the Greek and then Judaeo-Christian tradition has set up to explain the meaning of the world: dialogue, from Plato to the contemporary debate in the philosophical, scientific and political fields.

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

- learn a critical approach to issues and problems and set the issues in a philosophically correct way;

- understand some fundamental philosophical notions related to the subject under discussion (dialectics, dialogue, discourse, contradiction, freedom, language, word, truth, etc.) and acknowledge their contribution to the development of adequate cultural competence;

- understand and know how to analyse demonstrative and argumentative processes within a text;

- recognise the profound cultural foundations that underlie certain social processes of the contemporary world.

COURSE CONTENT

The first part of the course will be introductory and will focus on the unique features of "practising philosophy": why did this type of knowledge emerge, what is its purpose and how is its practice articulated? We will analyse historically the fundamental connection between philosophy and words in the search for truth and its teaching, as well as its extrinsic nature in the form of inter-subjective dialogue starting from the Socratic-Platonic tradition. We will also try to highlight and problematise the ever-present possibilities of a disconnect between words and the search for truth: what is the difference between good and bad rhetoric? What relationship binds truth and consensus? Finally, we will try to show what relationship exists between knowledge, speech and democracy in order to highlight the intimate link that unites the search for truth and freedom of speech.

READING LIST

- Course notes.

- R. Casati, *Prima lezione di filosofia*, Laterza, Rome, 2011.

- M. Foucault, *Discorso e verità nella Grecia antica*, Donzelli, Rome, 2019.

Other materials and readings will be provided during the course and made available on the *Blackboard* platform.

TEACHING METHOD

Frontal lectures using multimedia tools; guided reading of texts and discussions.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

Students will be assessed at the end of the course through an oral exam aimed at testing their knowledge and understanding of the content covered. Their ability to express themselves clearly, their command of a specialised language, and the correctness and effectiveness of their arguments will also be assessed.

Assessments:  
30 with distinction: excellent, solid knowledge, excellent ability to express themselves, and a complete understanding of the concepts and topics covered.

30: very good, complete and adequate knowledge, a correct and well-articulated ability to express themselves.

27-29: good, satisfactory knowledge, an essentially correct ability to express themselves.

24-26: fairly good knowledge, but incomplete and not always correct.

21-23: generally good but superficial knowledge. An often inappropriate way of expressing themselves.

18-21: pass mark.

Less than 18: fail.

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

The course does not require prior philosophical knowledge.

Should the current Covid-19 health emergency not allow face-to-face teaching, remote teaching will be guaranteed using methods that will be communicated in good time to students.

Information on office hours available on the teacher's personal page at http://docenti.unicatt.it/.