# -. Philosophical themes and problems

## Prof. Antonio Lizzadri

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

The course aims to introduce students to some fundamental themes and problems of philosophy, with particular attention to the vital and experiential context from which they arise. The aim of the course is therefore to provide interpretation keys, interpretive categories, conceptual and argumentative tools to address the main questions about the meaning that human beings of all times ask themselves concerning the knowledge of reality and of ourselves, which in contemporary culture reveal new aspects especially in light of the new technologies.

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

- identify some fundamental themes and problems of philosophy and recognise their relevance at an experiential and cultural level;

- consciously orient and position themselves today in the space of personal and collective questions about the meaning;

- develop interpretive categories and a critical philosophical point of view;

- apply conceptual and argumentative tools typical of philosophical knowledge;

- read, analyse, and understand philosophical texts.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The first part of the course will have an introductory character and will explore in a dialogic/argumentative manner the interweaving of ontological, epistemological, and anthropological questions, which structure philosophical knowledge as essentially metaphysical knowledge. The course will therefore start from the problem of the objectivity of knowledge of the world and of ourselves, starting from which it will be possible to delve into anthropological questions regarding the “mind-body” problem, free will, the idea of good and justice, and the experience of death.

In light of the critical analysis of the possible positions concerning these fundamental problems, the second part of the course will delve into the question of the “mind-body” relationship, which includes and reconfigures them in relation with the current “digital revolution”. The artificial intelligence poses a significant challenge to philosophy, problematising the way of conceiving the mind, its cognitive and emotional faculties, and its relationship with the body. Also in this regard, the main contemporary positions in the philosophy of mind will be critically discussed.

***READING LIST***

- Lecture notes.

- T. Nagel, *Una brevissima introduzione alla filosofia*, a cura di S. Veca, Il Saggiatore, Milan, 2014.

- E. Carli - F. Grigenti, *Mente, cervello, intelligenza artificiale*, Pearson, Milan-Turin, 2019.

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

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lessons with 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 contents covered. The students’ ability to express themselves clearly, their mastery of specialised language, and correctness and effectiveness of argumentation will also be assessed.

Assessment:  
30 cum laude: excellent, solid knowledge, excellent expressive skills, complete understanding of concepts and topics.

30: very good, complete and adequate knowledge, correct and well articulated expressive skills.

27-29: good, satisfactory knowledge, essentially correct expressive ability.

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

21-23: generally good but superficial knowledge. Often inappropriate expressive skills.

18-21: pass mark.

Meno di 18: fail mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course does not require prior philosophical knowledge.

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