

Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Principles of Philosophy 1
Course Code	27210
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	M-FIL/03
Language	English
Degree Course	Bachelor in Economics, Politics and Ethics
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	27250 - Principles of Philosophy 1 - L-18 E&M
Lecturers	Prof. Ivo De Gennaro, Ivo.DeGennaro@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/5188
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	Second semester
Course Year/s	1
CP	8
Teaching Hours	48
Lab Hours	24
Individual Study Hours	-
Planned Office Hours	24
Contents Summary	The course introduces to the tradition of philosophy as a metaphysical knowledge of principles. Based on the elucidation of the scope of philosophical interrogation, it lays out the differences between philosophical insight, scientific modeling, artistic creation and common sense. It touches on key concepts such as the nature of man as a speaking and as a political being, the meaning of truth, and the foundations of ethics. In the process, links between the different perspectives of philosophy, politics and economics are drawn.
Course Topics	- The inception of thinking and metaphysics;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the scope of a metaphysical position; - philosophy as phenomenology; - the problem and the changing notions of truth; - the essence of man; - the structure of scientific knowledge; - the relation of philosophy, science and art; - fundamental ethics and original economics; - the transition from ancient to modern philosophy; - the problem of method.
Keywords	Metaphysics, Phenomenology, Truth, Human being, Knowledge of Contingency, Scientific knowledge, Fundamental Ethics, Original Economics
Recommended Prerequisites	None
Propaedeutic Courses	None
Teaching Format	Mixed lecture and seminar style. Students are required to prepare required readings and encouraged to participate in class discussions.
Mandatory Attendance	Suggested, but not required.
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	<p>Knowledge and understanding:</p> <p>At the end of the course, students will have acquired the following knowledge and understanding:</p> <p>diachronic textual knowledge and hermeneutic tools for understanding the phenomenon of human existence in the context of the institution of the polis;</p> <p>diachronic textual knowledge and epistemological analysis tools for understanding the relationship between philosophical and scientific knowledge, with particular reference to the ethical foundations of economics and the assumptions and implications of economic modelling;</p> <p>knowledge of a selection of fundamental philosophical positions and theoretical analysis tools for the formation of an autonomous capacity for conceptualisation and ethical-philosophical diagnosis of phenomena;</p> <p>knowledge of a selection of fundamental philosophical positions and theoretical analysis tools for understanding the fundamental institutions of Western humanity;</p> <p>knowledge of the relationship between nature and society, understood through fundamental concepts of the philosophical</p>

	<p>tradition that allow for an analysis of the sphere of human habitation and an understanding of the crises linked to the technicisation of nature in the economic context;</p> <p>knowledge of the philosophical reasons behind decision-making criteria in economics and the ethical implications of these criteria, in order to understand the element of responsibility that these reasons entail at both a theoretical and practical level, with particular attention to transformative experiences.</p> <p>Applying knowledge and understanding:</p> <p>ability to detach oneself from the operational and contingent level, and from the respective forms of knowledge, in favour of the level on which meaning and knowledge are generated, which thematises it in a foundational perspective;</p> <p>ability to distinguish between the actual cause of an event and the origin or principle of a phenomenon;</p> <p>ability to appreciate the linguistic dimension and the difference between languages as a sphere for the development of philosophical thought:</p> <p>ability to adopt an independent cognitive and critical approach, supported by adequate conceptualisation skills at a methodological, theoretical and ethical level;</p> <p>ability to read and interpret textual examples from the philosophical tradition and to understand the fundamental intent of the reflections that comprise it;</p> <p>ability to effectively formulate a concept or reasoning in a multilingual context, characterised by translation and dialogue between languages.</p> <p>Autonomy of judgement:</p> <p>Acquisition of the capacity for judgement and of the methodological tools useful for the critical analysis of data, sources, assumptions and implications of scientific practice, of the political, ethical and legal context within which economic phenomena are inscribed and with which they interact</p> <p>Communication skills:</p> <p>Fluency (oral and written) in Italian, German and English, including translation between these languages. Intercultural competence.</p>
--	---

	<p>Conceptual awareness, ability to summarise and express oneself in writing, particularly with regard to the drafting of scientific or science-based documents</p> <p>Learning skills: Promotion of critical thinking and analytical skills to focus on complex problems in their long-term dynamics and in the variety of their implications, including ethical ones.</p>
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	<p>The course focuses on the capacity for philosophical conceptualization and diagnosis of phenomena, particularly economic ones. Towards this end it analyses exemplary positions of the philosophical tradition from antiquity to the beginning of modernity, and touches upon topics such as the relation between being and man, the essence of truth, the foundation of the sense of beings, the relation between philosophy and science, etc. Through a phenomenological approach to an original philosophical ethics the course offers an outline of the fundamental traits of the philosophical institution of humanity.</p> <p>Knowledge and understanding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. knowledge and understanding of selected fundamental positions of the philosophical tradition; 2. knowledge of the fundamental institutions of western humanity; 3. knowledge of some conceptual tools for a fundamental ethical diagnosis of our epoch. <p>Applying knowledge and understanding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. development of the capacity for distinguishing between the operative or contingent reality and the domain of the constitution of sense; 2. development of the capacity for analysing the conditions of possibility and the implications of (economic) phenomena; 3. development of the capacity for elaborating and formulating a philosophical argument. <p>Making judgments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. learning what a philosophical judgment consists in; 2. learning and applying the difference between making a judgment and evaluating; 3. learning and applying the difference between making a

	<p>judgment and expressing an opinion.</p> <p>Communication skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. students learn how to speak about non-contingent, pre-scientific circumstances; 2. students exercise how to speak in a manner that is guided by the sense-structure of the matter at hand; 3. students are confronted with the specific requirements of written philosophical communication (essay writing). <p>Learning skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. autonomous anhypothetical reasoning; 2. hermeneutic abilities exercised on philosophical texts; 3. written expression of autonomous thinking.
Assessment	<p>A. Modality "attending":</p> <p>Assessment 1: Open-book written final exam with short questions on two levels: one designed to check knowledge and understanding in terms of indicated objectives, the other designed to verify the capacity for applying this knowledge and this understanding in reasoning.</p> <p>Assessment 2: Take home essay on one of a series of suggested or on a freely chosen topic. This exercise requires students to exhibit the capacity for unfolding philosophical thinking in a more extended form, displaying the acquired ability to distinguish between factual-ontic description and merely formal-logical reasoning, on the one hand, and ontological interrogation on the other.</p> <p>B. Modality "non-attending":</p> <p>Closed-book written final exam on the entire material covered during the course (= assessment 3).</p>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Assessment 1 counts for 70% of the final mark. Assessment 2 counts for the remaining 30%.</p> <p>Assessment 3 carries 100% of the mark.</p> <p>Relevant for assessments 1 and 3: clarity, coherence and exhaustiveness of answers; capacity for arguing straight to the</p>

	<p>point, without introducing elements that are alien to what is being asked.</p> <p>Relevant for assessment 2: the capacity for posing a genuinely philosophical question and for unfolding autonomous philosophical reasoning; proven effort of elaborating a clear and formally correct text.</p>
Required Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selected chapters from I. De Gennaro, <i>Principles of Philosophy. A Phenomenological Approach</i>, Freiburg: Karl Alber Verlag, 2019. - Extracts from classical texts and other relevant readings made available in the Reserve collection and/or handed out in class.
Supplementary Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plato, <i>The Republic</i> (any edition)
Further Information	<p>Audio recordings of classes will be made available through the Reserve collection.</p>
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>No poverty, Partnerships for the goals, Good health and well-being, Quality education, Gender equality, Clean water and sanitation, Affordable and clean energy, Decent work and economic growth, Industry, innovation and infrastructure, Reduced inequalities, Sustainable cities and communities, Responsible consumption and production, Climate action, Life below water, Life on land, Peace, justice and strong institutions, Zero hunger</p>