

LFILO1113

2010-2011

Philosophical propaedeutics 1 : Historical introduction to Philosophy

7.0 credits	45.0 h + 30.0 h	1g
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Teacher(s) :	Leclercq Jean ;
Language :	Français
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes :	The key turning points in the development of Western philosophy. The course will concentrate on showing both the role that context plays in the emergence of various fields and disciplines that constitute the corpus we call "philosophy" in Europe today, and how this context is linked to the articulation of some of philosophy's cardinal questions. This will allow us to show how the understanding of the range and scope of these disciplines and questions changed through Western history.
Aims:	The objectives entail understanding the basic elements of a philosophical tradition. These entail, additionally, the ability to put this tradition to use in the reading of philosophical texts, whether classical or recent, as well as the ability to compose works that demonstrate an understanding of what is at stake, both on a historiographical and on a thematic level, in the texts we shall examine. In addition to these criteria, oriented towards philosophical research, should be added also criteria evaluating the ability to address a specific type of reader and to express clearly the projected objective through an exposition that is informed, well argued, critical, and intelligible. The contribution of this Teaching Unit to the development and command of the skills and learning outcomes of the programme(s) can be accessed at the end of this sheet, in the section entitled "Programmes/courses offering this Teaching Unit".
Evaluation methods :	The final mark is awarded on the basis of the results from volume 1 (course) and volume 2 (exercises) in the following way: Where one or both parts have been failed, the global mark is the weaker of the two. Where both parts have been passed, the global mark is calculated according to an 70 (vol.1) / 30 (vol.2) weighting.
Content :	Content: In the Greeks, the appearance of philosophical thinking stemming from: a demythologized reflection on phusis; the experience of the politeia (marking the birth of both political and moral thought); and the formalization of the potentialities of the logos (logic, dialectic, etc.). There will be a more specifically juridical approach to the Romans. The internalization of reflection and the confrontation with religious doctrine at the heart of the Middle Ages. In the Modern Period: the role of subjectivity; the appearance of rationalist, empiricist, and idealist strands; the appearance of phenomena linked to the emergence of capitalism, of secularism, and of individualism; then the crisis following the collapse of idealistic systems and linked to the emergence of so-called "philosophies of suspicion"; and finally, the contemporary attempts to overcome the crisis (phenomenology, hermeneutics, etc.) and the meeting [of philosophy] with the social sciences (psychoanalysis, anthropology, sociology, etc.). Method: a. Base: Lectures (by the professor): providing the basic instruments (doctrines, texts) b. Group tutorials (led by the assistant): the reading and commentary of texts that illustrate the lectures; preparation by the students; discussions. c. Work in small groups (led by the student monitors); the writing of short works to be presented, and defended, in the presence of the assistant and of the larger group (or team) d. Individual work done by the student to assimilate the lectures, preparing exercise sessions (library research, reading), writing of short works, and the writing of an essay, that is, a more substantial work (10 pages) to be defended at the final exam before the lecturer.
Other infos :	Supporting Materials: i) Course notes ii) Readings (philosophical texts illustrating the lectures and meant to be examined both individually and in a group) iii) IT materials
Cycle and year of study :	 ≥ Bachelor in Philosophy ≥ Preparatory year for Master in Family and Sexuality Studies
Faculty or entity in charge:	EFIL