

**Ancient and Medieval Philosophical Thought**

Code: 100017  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2502758 Humanities	OB	2	2

### Contact

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### Use of Languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)  
Some groups entirely in English: No  
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes  
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

### Prerequisites

There is no requirement

### Objectives and Contextualisation

*Ancient and medieval philosophical thinking* is a subject of the second year of the degree of Humanities. The specific objectives of this subject are:

- To get a good knowledge of the main authors, and of the philosophical approaches and of the problems of philosophical ancient and medieval thinking.
- To learn more about one of the most significant authors of ancient or medieval philosophy.
- To read, understand and interpret selected and representative texts of the authors studied, using the aforementioned knowledge.
- To reflect on some problems considered by thinkers at this time, on its cultural, social and political impact, and on its historical transcendence.
- To develop their own critical and self-critical thinking.
- To connect the contents of the subject with the content of other subjects of the degree.

### Competences

- Critically analysing today's culture and its historical conditions.
- Properly using the resources and methodologies of the study of contemporary culture.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Drawing up an academic text using the discipline's specific vocabulary.
2. Engaging in debates about historical facts respecting the other participants' opinions.
3. Identifying the characteristic methods of the history of philosophy and using them in the analysis of concrete facts.
4. Indicating and discussing the main characteristics of the of a period and contextualizing them.
5. Indicating and summarising the common content of several manifestations of various fields of culture.
6. Indicating the main issues of the history of the field.
7. Preparing a summary from a given text.
8. Summarising acquired knowledge about the origin and transformations experienced in the several fields of anthropology.

## Content

### 1. Introduction

1. Philosophy, mythology, religion, science
2. Greece and the birth of philosophy
3. Women and philosophy \*
4. Periods in ancient and medieval thought

### 2. Mythologies

1. Egyptian mythologies\*
2. Jewish mythologies\*
3. Greek Mythologies\*
4. Roman Mythologies\*

### 3. Oriental thought

1. Hinduism\*
2. Buddhism\*
3. Taoism\*
4. Confucianism\*

### 4. Greece: The Presocratics

1. From Mythos to Logos
2. The Milesians

### 5. Greece: The Sophists and Socrates

1. The Sophists
2. Socrates
  - a) Approach to the Socratic problem

b) The sources: Aristophanes, Plato, Xenophon and Aristotle

6. Plato: The Platonic studies

1. Up to Schleiermacher
2. Schleiermacher
3. The Tübingen-Milan School
4. Plato: use of writing

7. Plato: What is a platonic dialogue?

1. Plato: The Dialogues
2. Plato: The indirect Tradition

8. Plato: The Phaedo and the theory of ideas

1. Introduction
2. Structure
3. Ideas

9. Plato: the *Parmenides* and the revision of the theory of ideas

1. Introduction
2. Analysis of the content

10. Aristotle: Introduction

1. Aristotelian philosophy: Periods
2. The Aristotelian corpus
3. Division of philosophy

11. Aristotle: logic

1. The categories
2. Proposition and syllogism
3. The Science demonstration
4. Natural philosophy.

12. Aristotle: psychology and metaphysics

1. Psychology
2. Metaphysics

13. Aristotle: practical sciences

1. Ethics
2. Politics

14. Hellenistic schools I

1. Introduction
2. The cynics
3. Skepticism
4. Epicureism

#### 15. Hellenistic schools II

1. Old stoicism
2. The Roman transition
3. Neoplatonism

#### 16. The patristic Philosophy. Augustine of Hippo

1. The Patristic period: introduction
2. Augustine of Hippo: an approach to his philosophy

#### 17. Philosophy in the medieval Latin West until the introduction of the new Aristotle (9th-11th centuries)

1. Introduction
2. The Carolingian Renaissance
3. Scotus Eriugena
4. Anselm of Canterbury: God's Existence
5. The problem of universals
6. Peter Abelard

#### 18. Scholasticism. Aquinas. The "via moderna"

1. Introduction
2. The "new Aristotle"
3. Bonaventure
4. Aquinas
  - a) Characteristics of the period. Universities
  - b) The *Summa theologiae* and the proofs of the existence of God
  - c) Thomism metaphysics
5. The Paris sentence (1277) and its consequences
6. The "via moderna". Nominalism and mystique

#### 19. The Renaissance

1. Introduction
2. Characteristics

### 3. Humanism. Erasmus \*, Giordano Bruno \*, Machiavelli \*

The students (in small group) will prepare a presentation of one of the subjects marked with an asterisk (see "Methodology" and "Evaluation")

## Methodology

Lessons combine theoretical lectures with reading and comments about particularly significant texts. The lecturer will make available to students notes on the main topics of the course and texts by the most representative authors (Virtual Campus). The student must go to class (the attendance and participation are important) having prepared the daily topic. The lecturer's explanation of the subject presupposes this preparation.

In addition, the student will have to read (compulsory) one of the following texts and write an essay:

Heraclit, *Fragments*

Plato, *Phaedon*

Plato, *Letter VII*

Aristotle, *De anima*

Seneca, *De vita beata*

Ramon Llull, *Libre de les bèsties*.

We will use the Virtual Campus basically to share the materials. On the other hand, if the student wishes to contact the lecturer, he or she must send a personal email (not by a Virtual Campus message).

The tutorials will be basically dedicated to prepare the essay and the compulsory readings, and to solve any doubt.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures	36	1.44	3, 8
Study and preparation for the exams	30	1.2	4, 6, 8
Type: Supervised			
Group presentations	10	0.4	4, 5, 7, 3, 2, 8
Type: Autonomous			
Compulsory reading	20	0.8	4, 1, 6, 8
Preparation of topics and texts. Bibliographical research	36	1.44	4, 5, 8

## Assessment

The assessment is continued and requires the attendance in class and the constant follow-up of the course. To pass the course is required: a) to achieve a mark of 4, at least, in each exam; b) to achieve a mark of 5 in

average, at least, in the set of all the activities. If a student does not fulfil these two conditions, he or she must be submitted to a reevaluation exam. The essays will not have a reevaluation. The reevaluation is not possible without having done previously the ordinary exam.

The reassessment exam format will be similar to the ordinary exams format and will have two parts: one for the topics of each partial exam. The student will only have to do the failed part(s).

The student whose evaluation activities have not reached the 30% of the activities will be assessed as "Non-evaluable".

After the reevaluations, there is not a second round.

The lecturer will assign a day, hour and place to review the exams after having evaluated the activities of the course. Students who have to do the reassessment will have a specific day of review when they will have done the aforementioned reevaluation exam.

#### Comments

1. The essay (of one of the compulsory readings) must have 5,000 words maximum and will consist of the following parts:

Introduction

1. Context

2. Work

3. Critical commentary

4. Bibliography

2. The oral presentations (Cf. Contents \*) will last 30-40 '.

### Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Essay on one of the compulsory reading	20	13.5	0.54	4, 5, 7, 1
Exam 1	30	1.5	0.06	4, 3, 6, 8
Exam 2	30	1.5	0.06	4, 5, 3, 8
Group presentations (with abstract)	20	1.5	0.06	4, 7, 3, 2, 8

### Bibliography

Bréhier, É. (1998), *Història de la filosofia i de la ciència*. Barcelona: UAB.

Copleston, F. (2001), *Historia de la Filosofía*, 9 Vol. Barcelona: Ariel.

Ferrater Mora, J. (1981), *Diccionario de Filosofía*, 4 Vol. Madrid: Alianza.

Garfield, J.L & Edelglass, W. (Eds.) (2014), *The Oxford Handbook of World Philosophy*. Oxford: OUP.

Geymonat, L. (1998), *Història de la filosofia i de la ciència*. Barcelona: Crítica

Mensa i Valls, J. (2012), *Introducció a la filosofia medieval*. Bellaterra: UAB.

Nisbert, R.E. (2003), *The Geography of Thought*. Nova York: The Free Press.

Reale, G. et al. (1988), *Historia del pensamiento filosófico y científico*, 3 Vol. Barcelona: Herder.

Terricabras, J. M., (Ed.) (2001), *El pensament filosòfic i científic. I i II*. Barcelona: Pòrtic.

Tola, F. & Dragonetti, C. (2008), *Filosofia de la India: Del Veda Al Vedanta*. Barcelona: Kairós.