

**COURSE DATA****Data Subject**

<b>Code</b>	35364
<b>Name</b>	Ontological questions
<b>Cycle</b>	Grade
<b>ECTS Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Academic year</b>	2021 - 2022

**Study (s)**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Center</b>	<b>Acad. year</b>	<b>Period</b>
1012 - Degree in Philosophy	Faculty of Philosophy and Educational Sciences	4	First term

**Subject-matter**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Subject-matter</b>	<b>Character</b>
1012 - Degree in Philosophy	33 - Ontological questions	Optional

**Coordination**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>
TEJEDOR PALAU, MARIA ASUNCION	359 - Philosophy

**SUMMARY**

The course will explore ontological problems such as: (i) the debate between realism and idealism; (ii) being, subject and solipsism; (iii) the problem of normativity; and, (iv) the nature of the mind. In each of them, the general lines of the problem, the main theoretical positions about it and the most important difficulties of those positions will be exposed. We will address these problems with key philosophers in these areas, such as: Ludwig Wittgenstein and Elizabeth Anscombe.

**PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE****Relationship to other subjects of the same degree**



There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

### **Other requirements**

A general philosophical background is required, though it will have been acquired, presumably, in the previous years of the Philosophy Degree.

## **OUTCOMES**

### **1012 - Degree in Philosophy**

- Be able to communicate professionally both orally and in writing in the Universitat de València's native languages.
- Be able to obtain information from different primary and secondary sources.
- Acquire the capacity to pose and solve problems, as well as to make decisions, in a limited time.
- Be able to convey information, ideas, problems and solutions to others (experts or not).
- Have critical and self-critical capacity.
- Know how to work in a team avoiding gender discrimination.
- Be respectful of difference and plurality and avoid gender discrimination.
- Develop innovation and creativity.
- Relate problems, ideas, schools and traditions.
- Accurately describe the results of the analysis of controversial and complex problems.
- Identify and evaluate clearly and rigorously the arguments presented either in texts or orally.
- Acquire the learning skills needed to undertake further studies with an increasing degree of autonomy.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the end of this course, students should be able to draw a conceptual map of the debates around the main problems dealt with in the course.

They should also be able to write, in a well-ordered and coherent way, about the main lines of the aforementioned debates.

Finally, they should be able to continue, on their own, with the study of the subjects dealt with during the course.



## DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

### 1. The realism / idealism debate

The relationship between the world, thought and language. Reality and the principles of the natural sciences. The dissolution of the debate between realism and idealism.

Authors discussed may include Ludwig Wittgenstein (Tractatus), Cora Diamond, and/or Marie McGinn.

### 2. Self, Subject and Solipsism

The subject as a condition of the world. The empirical subject and the transcendental subject. Varieties of solipsism. The dissolution of solipsism as philosophical nonsense.

Authors discussed may include Arthur Schopenhauer, Bertrand Russell, Ludwig Wittgenstein (Tractatus), Cora Diamond, and/or Marie McGinn.

### 3. The problem of normativity

Nature and normativity. Description, prescription and the myth of the given. Language as normative use. The criticism of the mentalistic model of the normative. Normative practice of rule-following a rule.

Authors discussed may include Saul Kripke, Ludwig Wittgenstein (Philosophical Investigations), and/or Marie McGinn.

### 4. The nature of mind

Privacy and transparency of the mental. The problem of sensations. The private language problem. Behaviorism and action. Mind, normative practice and public language. Intention.

Authors discussed may include: René Descartes; Elizabeth of Bohemia; Ludwig Wittgenstein (Philosophical Investigations); Cora Diamond; Marie McGinn; Elizabeth Anscombe.

**WORKLOAD**

ACTIVITY	Hours	% To be attended
Theory classes	30,00	100
Seminars	15,00	100
Tutorials	5,00	100
Development of individual work	30,00	0
Study and independent work	40,00	0
Readings supplementary material	30,00	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150,00</b>	

**TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

Presentation by the lecturer, with possible students' participation.

Students' participation and, in general, of all those present in order to discuss the points of view presented.

Personal interviews or electronic consultations to agree on the students' autonomous work and requirements for its elaboration, and to monitor its evolution.

Personal interview of the agents involved or electronic consultation (via virtual classroom, e-mail, blogs, etc.).

Presentation of the agents involved with the possible students' participation, and a students' written report.

**EVALUATION*****First call:***

The theoretical part will be assessed by means of a critical essay on one of the theories addressed in the theory classes.

The practical part will be assessed through the completion of the classroom tasks proposed by the lecturers or by means of an essay or text commentary. These activities will not be recoverable and the mark obtained will be maintained.

The theoretical part will account for 70% of the final grade while the practical part will represent 30%.

***Second call:***

The evaluation will be done through a final written assignment on the whole Theory syllabus which will determine 70% of the final grade.



Note: Plagiarism is a very serious offence, inadmissible at the university. Cases of plagiarism will be penalised with a fail in the corresponding exam session, in addition to other possible sanctions provided for by the university regulations.

## REFERENCES

### Basic

- TEJEDOR, CHON. Starting with Wittgenstein. Bloomsbury (2011).
- SANFELIX VIDARTE, VICENTE Y PRADES CELMA, JOSE. Wittgenstein: Mundo y lenguaje. Plastigraf (1990)
- CORBÍ, JOSEP y MOYA, CARLOS (eds.), Ensayos sobre libertad y necesidad, Valencia, Pre-Textos, 1997.
- MOYA, CARLOS. Filosofía de la Mente, València PUV, 2004, 2006.

### Additional

- TEJEDOR, CHON The Early Wittgenstein on Metaphysics, Natural Science, Language and Action (Routledge, 2015)
- MORRIS, MICHAEL. El Tractatus de Wittgenstein: Guía de Lectura, de Michael Morris (Teorema, 2015)
- PINEDA, DAVID. La mente humana. Introducción a la Filosofía de la Psicología, Madrid (Cátedra, 2012)
- WITTGENSTEIN, LUDWIG. Tractatus logico-philosophicus-Investigaciones filosóficas, traducción, introducción y notas críticas de Isidoro Reguera Perez (Madrid: Editorial Gredos, 2017)
- WITTGENSTEIN, LUDWIG. Sobre la certeza, editado por G.E.M. Anscombe & G.H. von Wright, traducción Josep Lluís Prades & Vicent Raga (Barcelona: Gedisa, 1995)

## ADDENDUM COVID-19

**This addendum will only be activated if the health situation requires so and with the prior agreement of the Governing Council**

**English version is not available**