UNIVERSITÀ DI PAVIA

Anno Accademico 2023/2024

EPISTEMOLOGY, LOGIC AND INFORMAL REASONING

Enrollment year	2022/2023
Academic year	2023/2024
Regulations	DM270
Academic discipline	M-FIL/05 (PHILOSOPHY AND THEORY OF LANGUAGE)
Department	DEPARTMENT OF BRAIN AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
Course	PSYCHOLOGY, NEUROSCIENCE AND HUMAN SCIENCES
Curriculum	PERCORSO COMUNE
Year of study	2°
Period	1st semester (02/10/2023 - 20/12/2023)
ECTS	6
Lesson hours	36 lesson hours
Language	English
Activity type	WRITTEN AND ORAL TEST
Teacher	SERENI ANDREA (titolare) - 2 ECTS DE TOFFOLI SILVIA - 2 ECTS TOMASETTA ALFREDO - 2 ECTS
Prerequisites	There are no formal prerequisites for this class. The class is designed so as to be accessible to students with no background in either philosophy or logic. A familiarity with basic logic, however, while not necessary, can be helpful.
Learning outcomes	This course aims at developing knowledge and understanding in several key areas of Epistemology, basic Logic and Philosophy of Science: a) Advanced knowledge of theoretical models and interpretation in the area of Epistemology, Logic, and Informal Reasoning b) Development of critical thinking, analytical, and synthetic reasoning skills in the area of Epistemology, Logic, and Informal Reasoning

	Furthermore, the course aims to cultivate the ability to apply this knowledge and understanding effectively by advancing students' ability to: a) perform and evaluate applications in the area of Epistemology and its interactions with informal and scientific reasoning
Course contents	The course falls within the general area of Epistemology (Theory of Knowledge), and its interactions with issues concerning logical reasoning (formal and informal) and forms of inference traditionally studied within the Philosophy of Science. The course is ideally comprised of three strongly connected parts. (1) An introduction to traditional epistemology, exploring both the theory of knowledge -- starting from ancient definitions and leading to major contemporary proposals - and the theory of justification; special emphasis on the role of conceptual analysis and mental experiments in philosophical investigations. (2) A discussion of basic themes concerning formal and informal reasoning (validity, soundness, fallacies, etc.), also including applications to essential problems for scientific reasoning - such as the problem of induction and its impact on scientific methodology. (3) An introduction to social epistemology, extending the traditional analysis explored in the first part in order to tackle questions such as how we acquire information from others, what the epistemic significance of disagreement is, whether we should trust the experts, and whether it is possible (and useful) to ascribe knowledge directly to groups rather than to individuals. By the end of the course students will have a working knowledge of classical debates in epistemology, and how they can be applied to everyday and scientific reasoning as well as to a better understanding of scientific methodology.
Teaching methods	The course will mainly consists in lectures, to be integrated with group discussions on selected readings, as well as group exercises concerning epistemological puzzles and instances of correct logical reasoning and fallacies. Students' active interaction during classes will be especially encouraged. A PCL will be associated to the course so as to provide room for further group work and interactive teaching on related topics.
Reccomended or required readings	An essential reading list is the following: Bowell, T. & Kemp, G. 2015. Critical Thinking. A Concise Guide, Routledge. Goldman, A. and Whitcomb, D. (editors) 2011. Social Epistemology: Essential Readings, Oxford University Press Okasha, S. 2016. Philosophy of Science, Oxford University Press, (2nd

	Edition). Pritchard, D. 2006. What is this thing called knowledge?, Routledge. These will be supplemented by selected papers and lectures slides
Assessment methods	The exam will be a written examination with 4 open-ended questions. Each question is assessed on a 0-30 scale, and the final score is on a 0-30 scaled averaged on replies to the 4 questions. The exam duration is 2 hours. The exam will cover the material and topics explained and discussed during the lectures. The students' grades will be determined by the accuracy and clarity of their answers, as well as their ability to explain and critically apply the concepts taught throughout the course.
Further information	
Sustainable development goals - Agenda 2030	4 $lbl_legenda_sviluppo_sostenibile