

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

**Code:** 33293  
**Name:** Problems in metaphysics  
**Cycle:** Undergraduate Studies  
**ECTS Credits:** 6  
**Academic year:** 2025-26

**STUDY (S)**

| Degree                      | Center                                         | Acad. year | Period        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1004 - Degree in Philosophy | Facultat de Filosofia i Ciències de l'Educació | 3          | First quarter |
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**SUBJECT-MATTER**

| Degree                      | Subject-matter          | Character |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1004 - Degree in Philosophy | Problems in metaphysics | ELECTIVES |
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**COORDINATION**

TEJEDOR PALAU MARIA ASUNCION

**SUMMARY**

The course will explore ontological problems such as: the debate between realism and idealism; being, subject and solipsism; the problem of normativity; and 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.

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**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

## COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

### 1004 - Degree in Philosophy

Accurately describe the results of the analysis of controversial and complex problems.

Acquire the capacity to pose and solve problems, as well as to make decisions, in a limited time.

Acquire the learning skills needed to undertake further studies with an increasing degree of autonomy.

Be able to convey information, ideas, problems and solutions to others (experts or not).

Be able to obtain information from different primary and secondary sources.

Be able to organise and plan work times.

Be respectful of difference and plurality and avoid gender discrimination.

Capacidad de comunicación profesional oral y escrita en las lenguas propias de la Universitat de València.

Develop innovation and creativity.

Have critical and self-critical capacity.

Identify and evaluate clearly and rigorously the arguments presented either in texts or orally.

Know how to work in a team avoiding gender discrimination.

Relate problems, ideas, schools and traditions.

## 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; Marie McGinn.

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.



## 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; 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); 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

### PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

| Activity           | Hours        |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Tutorials          | 5,00         |
| Theory             | 30,00        |
| Seminar            | 15,00        |
| <b>Total hours</b> | <b>50,00</b> |

### NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

| Activity                              | Hours         |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Attendance at other activities        | 0,00          |
| Individual or group project           | 30,00         |
| Independent study and work            | 70,00         |
| Preparation of lessons                | 0,00          |
| Preparation for assessment activities | 0,00          |
| Resolution of case studies            | 0,00          |
| <b>Total hours</b>                    | <b>100,00</b> |

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY



Presentation by the professor, with possible participation of the students.

Participation of the students 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 autonomous work of the students and the 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 participation of the participants, and report to be written by the students.

Autonomous work.

## 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 mark; the practical part, 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

- SANFELIX VIDARTE, VICENTE Y PRADES CELMA, JOSE. Wittgenstein: Mundo y lenguaje. Plastigraf (1990)
- TEJEDOR, CHON. Starting with Wittgenstein. Bloomsbury (2011).
- 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.
- - 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) - TEJEDOR, CHON The Early Wittgenstein on Metaphysics, Natural Science, Language and Action (Routledge, 2015) - 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)