

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT****Code:** 35364**Name:** Ontological questions**Cycle:** Undergraduate Studies**ECTS Credits:** 6**Academic year:** 2026-27**STUDY (S)**

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1012 - Degree in Philosophy	Facultat de Filosofia i Ciències de l'Educació	3	Sin determinar, First quarter
1012 - Degree in Philosophy	Facultat de Filosofia i Ciències de l'Educació	4	Sin determinar, First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1012 - Degree in Philosophy	Ontological questions	ELECTIVES
1012 - Degree in Philosophy	Ontological questions	ELECTIVES

COORDINATION

CORBI FERNANDEZ DE IBARRA JOSEP E

SUMMARY

In this course, we will examine some crucial ontological questions concerning experiences of harm such as torture, Auschwitz, terrorism or sexual aggression. We will explore, among others, questions related to (a) the three poles of torture, (b) the concept of force and living dead, (c) harm and the formation of the subject, (d) harm and attention. For this purpose, we will discuss the testimony of survivors as well as works of fiction based on the views of Elaine Scarry, Simone Weil, Bernard Williams, Barry Stroud and Judith Butler.

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

1012 - 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 communicate professionally both orally and in writing in the Universitat de València's native languages.

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 respectful of difference and plurality and avoid gender discrimination.

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 practical question: self-knowledge, deliberation and the disenchanted world.

2. Otel·lo (Shakespeare, 1603): Iago, the unconditional evil and bodily experience.

3. The Karamazov Brothers (Dostoievski, 1880): Ivan's strange sensation: self-knowledge, guilt and the ethical bond.



4. Austerlitz (Sebald, 2001): Harm and the ethical drive.
5. The castle (Kafka, 1926): Between the inner and the outer.
6. Ella soy yo (Suria, 2019): Sexual harm, narrative and self-transformation.
7. Intimacy and dialectical necessity: the case of care.
8. Zona de Interés (Blazer, 2023): The role of aspect perception in collective harm cases.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Tutorials	5,00
Theory	30,00
Seminar	15,00
Total hours	50,00

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
Total hours	100,00

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 test taken in exam conditions about some of the topics explored in the lectures.

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.

Fraudulent conduct in assessment tests and plagiarism in assessment work will be considered in accordance with the UV Assessment and Grading Regulations (ACGUV 108/2017) and the Protocol for Action against Fraudulent Practices (ACGUV 123/2020).

The use of technologies (including AI) to create assessment materials without prior and express authorization from the teaching staff will prevent them from being considered as self-authored and will be treated according to current regulations and the UV Code of Coexistence and Good Practices (ACGUV 300/2023, DOGV, no. 9747/18.12.2023).

REFERENCES



Basic

- Améry, J. 2001, *Más allá de la culpa y la expiación*. Valencia: Pre-textos.
- Butler, J. 2016, *Frames of War*. NY: Verso Books, pp. 1-62. Edición castellana: Butler, J. 2017, *Marcos de guerra*. Barcelona: Paidós.
- Butler, J. 2011, *Bodies that Matter*. London: Routledge, intro (pp. 1-26), cap. 4, 6 y 8. Edición castellana: Butler, J. 2013, *Cuerpos que importan*. Barcelona: Paidós.
- Corbí, J. E. 2012, *Self-Knowledge, Morality and Human Suffering: An Essay on the Loss of Confidence in the World*. New York: Routledge, cap. 2.
- Scarry, E. 1987, *The Body in Pain. The Making and Unmaking of the World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, introducción (pp. 1-27), cap. 1.
- Stroud, B. 2015, "L'autocomprensió i l'expectativa d'assolir l'objectivitat". *Quaderns de Filosofia*, vol. 2 no. 2, pp. 95-135.
- Weil, S. 2016, *L'arrelament*. Barcelona: Edicions 1984.
- Weil, S. 1997, "La Ilíada o el poema de la guerra" en ídem: *Escrits sobre la guerra*, Alzira: Bromera, pp. 77-110.
- Weil, S. 1997, "No recomencem la guerra de Troia" en ídem: *Escrits sobre la guerra*, Alzira: Bromera, pp. 27-50.
- Weil, S. 2021, *La gravetat i la gràcia*. Barcelona: Fragmenta Editorial.
- Williams, B. 2006, *Verdad y veracidad*, cap. 8. Barcelona: Tusquets.

Complementary

- Alcoff, L. M. 2018, *Rape and Resistance*. Cambridge: Polity Press, caps. 1-2, 4, 6-7. Edición castellana: Alcoff, L. M. 2019, *Violación y resistencia*. Buenos Aires: Prometeo Libros.
- Al-Rahmoun, H. 2012, *Otel·lo*. Película, nacionalidad: española.
- Barthes, R. 2009, *La cámara lúcida*. Barcelona: Paidós.
- Berlin, I. 1992, *El fuste torcido de la humanidad*. Barcelona: Península.
- Coetzee, J. 2010, "W.G. Sebald, del natural" en ídem, *Mecanismos internos*. Buenos Aires: Editorial Contemporánea.
- Corbí, J. E. 2014, "El mal incondicional y la experiencia del cuerpo" en Pio Colonello (ed.), *Il Soggetto Riflesso*. Milán: Mimesis.
- Corbí, J. E. 2017, "Fact, Fiction, and Projection: The Inescapability of Austerlitz's Impulse" en T. Koblížek (ed.), *The Aesthetic Illusion in Literature and the Arts*. London: Bloomsbury, pp. 163-184.
- Corbí, J. E. 2016, "Gustav von Aschenbach's Inner Impulse and the Value of His Life". *Teorema*, v. XXX/2, pp. 67-82.
- Corbí, J. E. 2021, "Agency in the Space of Reasons. A Comment on The Castle", en T.
- Koblížek and P. Kotatko, *Lessons from Kafka*. Prague: Filosofía, pp. 113-140.
- Corbí, J. E. y Martínez-Sáez, C. 2021, "El uso expresivo de las palabras: daño sexual, narración y transformación", *Quaderns de Filosofia*, vii/2, pp. 11-41.
- Dostoyevsky, F. 2005, *Los hermanos Karamazov*. Madrid: Cátedra.
- Finkelstein, D. 2010, *Expresión y lo interno*. Oviedo: KRK.
- Foucault, M. 1999, "Tecnologías del yo" en ídem: *Tecnologías del yo y otros textos afines*. Barcelona: Paidós, pp. 45-94.
- Frank, J. 2010, *Dostoevsky. A Writer in His Time*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Freud, S. 2010, *El malestar de la cultura*. Madrid: Alianza.
- Korsgaard, C. 2000, *Las fuentes de la normatividad*. México: UNAM.



- Korsgaard, C. 2009, *Self-Constitution. Agency, Identity and Integrity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Levi, P. 2014, *Los hundidos y los salvados*. Barcelona: Península.
- Mann, Th. 2014, *Muerte en Venecia*. México: Editora Continental.
- Moran, R. 2001, *Authority and Estrangement*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Nagel, T. 2013, "La suerte moral", en B. Williams y T. Nagel, *La suerte moral*. Oviedo: KRK.
- Raatzsch, R. 2009, *Apologetics of Evil: The Case of Iago*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, trad. Ladislaus Löb.
- Rosell, S. 2013, "Introducción" en B. Williams y T. Nagel, *La suerte moral*. Oviedo: KRK.
- Sánchez-Ferlosio, R. 2010, "La señal de Caín" en ídem, *El alma y la vergüenza*. Barcelona: Destino, pp. 87-124.
- Schwartz, L. S. 2010, *The Emergence of Memory. Conversations with W.G. Sebald*. Nueva York: Seven Stories Press.
- Sebald, S. W. 2001, *Austerlitz*. Madrid: Anagrama.
- Shakespeare, W. 1985, *Othello*. Madrid: Cátedra (trad. Manuel Ángel Conejero y Genaro Talens).
- Thiebaut, C. 2014, "El relato del daño como historia natural (A propósito de W. G. Sebald)". *Sin Permiso*, 11 enero 2014, pp. 1-85.
- Ujanova, N. 2005, "Introducción" en *Dostoyevsky 2005*.
- Whitehead, A. 2004, *Trauma Fiction*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Williams, B. 1993, "La necesidad práctica" en ídem, *La fortuna moral*. México: UNAM, pp. 159-168.
- Wollheim, R. 2006, *Sobre las emociones*. Madrid: Antonio Machado Libros.
- Whitehead, A. 2004, *Trauma Fiction*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.