

Syllabus		
Title of the course:		HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY
Code of the course:		BAAA 0010
Method of evaluation		Students are invited to participate in the classes and possibly to read in advance the relevant texts required for each class. There will be a verbal exam, where the emphasis will be on the students' capability to reproduce and understand the most important trains of thoughts.
Time of the classes:		Mondays 14.45-16.15
Room of the classes:		313
Classes/week:		2
Credits:		3
Name of course leader		István Zalatnay
Title of course leader		associate professor
<p><i>Aims and objectives of the course: to make the students acquainted with the bases of philosophical thinking by presenting a brief history of western philosophy</i></p>		
Semester schedule		
Class:	Date:	Topic:
1-2.	11/09	<p>1) <i>The concept of the history of philosophy, its relation to other cultural phenomena, main periods and most important personalities of Western philosophy</i></p> <p>2) <i>Presocratics: very different answers to questions from „nothing changes“ to „everything changes“ and efforts to make synthesis</i></p> <p><i>Required readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Parmenides: Fragments 1-8 (possibly translation of John Burnet)</i> - <i>Heraclitus: Fragments (all); heraclitusfragments.com</i>
3-4.	18/09	<p><i>Sokrates and Plato: idealism as epistemological and moral theory</i></p> <p><i>Required readings (there is a standard reference system in Plato used here, too)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Plato: Gorgias 459a-461b; 466a-481b</i> - <i>Plato: The Republic, (end of Book 6 and beginning of Book 7): 507a-511e, 513a-521b</i>
5-6.	25/09	<p><i>Aristotle: the birth of scientific methods of thinking</i></p> <p><i>Required readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Metaphysics, Book 12/ Chapter 1, 6-7, 9-10</i>
7-8.	2/10	<p>1) <i>Hellenistic philosophy: how to survive in a chaotic “modern” world</i></p> <p>2) <i>Neoplatonism proper and as a means for St. Augustine to found Christian Philosophy</i></p> <p><i>Required readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Plotinos: Enneads, Book 5, Chapter 1</i> - <i>St Augustine: Confessions, Book 9/Chapter 10; Book 10/Chapter 24-26</i>
9-10.	9/10	<p>1) <i>Anselm of Canterbury: faith that wants to understand</i></p> <p>2) <i>Thomas Aquinas: the great Christian system of philosophy</i></p>

		<p><i>Required readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anselm: <i>Proslogion</i>, Chapter 1-5 - Thomas Aquinas: <i>Summa Theologiae</i>, First Part I, 2-nd question
11-12.	16/10	<p>1) 14th century philosophy: Duns Scotus, William Ockham and nominalism as the possibility of a very different Christian Philosophy</p> <p>2) Philosophy in the Renaissance age: the birth of a new world and that of modern science</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Machiavelli: <i>The prince</i>, XVII Of cruelty and mercy, XVIII In what mode faith should be kept by princes?
13-14.	6/11	<p>1) Rationalism: philosophy inspired by mathematics</p> <p>2) Empirism: philosophy inspired by experiment as the analysis of our mind</p> <p><i>Required readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Descartes: <i>Meditations on the first philosophy</i>, Preface and 1st Meditation (http://www.classicallibrary.org/descartes/meditations/3.htm) - Locke: <i>Treatise concerning human understanding</i>, 2nd Part I/1-10; Fourth Part 17/1-3, 14-17; Fourth Part 18.
15-16.	13/11.	<p>Immanuel Kant: <i>Saving human freedom by understanding the operating system of our thinking</i></p> <p><i>Required reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Critique of the pure reason, Introduction to the second edition (http://hume.ucdavis.edu/mattey/phi022/KantPrefaceSecond.pdf)
17-18.	20/11	<p>1) German idealism: the world as a product of human mind</p> <p>2) Soren Kierkegaard: existentialist philosophy</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hegel: <i>Lectures on the history of philosophy. Introduction</i> (several editions)
19-20	27/11	<p>1) Marxism: Attempt at creating a new world by a revolution in the society</p> <p>2) Nietzsche: Attempt at creating a new world by a revolution in the value system</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marx-Engels: <i>Manifesto of the Communist Party</i>, Chapter I-II - Nietzsche: <i>Thus spoke Zarathustra</i>, Prologue 1-5
21-22	4/12	<p>Late 19th and 20th century continental philosophy: phenomenology, Heidegger and hermeneutic philosophy</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Edmund Husserl: <i>Ideas pertaining to a pure phenomenology etc.</i> §§ 1-7
23-24.	11/12	<p>20th century analytic philosophy and its foundations by the logic of Frege and the philosophies (sic!) of Ludwig Wittgenstein.</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i></p> <p>Gottlob Frege: <i>On sense and reference</i> (in: Geach-Black: <i>Translations from the philosophical writings of Gottlob Frege</i>, 1960 (2nd ed.) Oxford, pages 56-79</p>

Secondary literature

Anthony Kenny: *A brief history of western philosophy* (several editions, also „An illustrated brief history...)