



Ca' Foscari
University
of Venice

Department of Philosophy
and Cultural Heritage

THEORETICAL AREA

Aims and Objectives

For the ancient Greeks, 'theoria' is both a way of seeing, of knowing and thinking, which is neither separate nor opposed to action. The teaching and the research criteria that are recognized in the theoretical setting aim to take advantage of the necessary historiographical and philological approach, without this becoming an end in itself. In the "body to body" of the great texts of the ancient, modern and contemporary tradition the "theoretical" philosopher never forgets to grapple with the concreteness of philosophical questions. Thinking is the action that starts from the "things in themselves" (Husserl and Wittgenstein here agree), observed and questioned without prejudicial shields or subjection to established authorities. The aim is therefore a radicalism and a freedom of interrogation that results in being able to advance with the right questions, being able to grasp the multiple and mutable meanings of things, and being able to document and argue clearly with the ability to communicate both to an expert as well as an educated lay audience. With regard to these goals, whose repercussions involve research and teaching - that are, as always, never separated - scholars orient

themselves towards different facets and approaches, yet all interconnected with each other: the ontological, hermeneutic, aesthetic and the linguistic, logical.

Contents

Fundamental themes and problems in theoretical philosophy, ontology, philosophical hermeneutics, aesthetics and philosophy of language and logic, in relation to the articulations of tradition and to the developments of contemporary debate (phenomenology, hermeneutics of existence, neoidealism, neopositivism, neopragmatism). Lexicon, categories and definition of the different areas of speculative inquiry, in the broader context of the rethinking of the foundations of knowledge that inaugurates twentieth century philosophical thought and the comparison between analytic and continental. Particular reference to the following authors: Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Frege, Wittgenstein, Husserl, Heidegger, Gadamer, Gentile, Severino, Bruner, Dewey, Vygotsky.

Teaching

Theoretical Philosophy, philosophical hermeneutics, aesthetics, philosophy of language, philosophy of knowledge,

philosophy of literature, ontology,
Theoretical Philosophy, Pragmatics and
Philosophy of Language

Specialist seminars

Philosophical-theoretical-hermeneutical seminar

This is by now the fruit of the union between two previously distinguished seminars, the theoretical and the hermeneutic. Designed for PhD Philosophy students, yet open to undergraduate and graduate students of the University. The issues dealt with are those underlying the theoretical inquiry: 'truth', 'necessity', 'possibility', 'experience', 'historicity', 'linguisticity'.

[S.erm.o.] Seminar - session on Aesthetics

The guiding idea is to draw on the contemporary debate, yet also on the interpretation of the classics as an opportunity to interpret the current situation in its artistic, anthropological and ethical-political implications - without ignoring the relevant economic, sociological, and scientific implications and achievements of content and artistic practices through the different 'media'. In recent years contributions have focussed attention on R. Krauss, M. Fried and visual culture, on Hölderlin, on Dewey, and on Marcuse. In addition, a study day was also held entitled "Dresses, beliefs, lifestyles. Between Wittgenstein and pragmatism" as well as an interdisciplinary conference on the theme "Happiness, prosperity, well-being. Between philosophy, politics and economics".

[S.erm.o.] Seminar - session on Philosophy of language

A series of seminars (normally 5 per year) on a theme in the philosophy of language. Among the themes dealt with in previous years: Wittgenstein and the philosophy of language; semantic contextualism; semantic relativism; themes in philosophy of mathematics; the pragmatics between linguistics and philosophy; vagueness

and indeterminacy. The purpose of the seminars is to develop research in the field of the philosophy of language with a critically free spirit towards the various settings and schools.

Seminar on theoretical Philosophy

In collaboration with the Studio Filosofico Domenicano [Dominican Philosophical Society], this seminar is held annually in Bologna during the first two weeks of June. The program, which also involves scholars from other universities, foresees eight presentations followed by a broad discussion of the topics covered. Now in its sixth year [2018], after having had as theme the concept of Being, reasoned around Non-being, explored the diptych Becoming and its contradictions, investigating the ways of telling truth, and tackled the issues related to Judgement, the Seminar focused this time on Experience. The proceedings are regularly published in the journal "Divus Thomas".

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