



# UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO

<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	Scienze Umanistiche
<b>ACADEMIC YEAR</b>	2017/2018
<b>MASTER'S DEGREE (MSC)</b>	PHILOSOPHICAL AND HISTORICAL SCIENCES
<b>SUBJECT</b>	PHILOSOPHY OF PERSUASIVE LANGUAGES
<b>TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY</b>	B
<b>AMBIT</b>	50587-Istituzioni di filosofia
<b>CODE</b>	19094
<b>SCIENTIFIC SECTOR(S)</b>	M-FIL/05
<b>HEAD PROFESSOR(S)</b>	DI PIAZZA SALVATORE Professore Associato Univ. di PALERMO
<b>OTHER PROFESSOR(S)</b>	
<b>CREDITS</b>	9
<b>INDIVIDUAL STUDY (Hrs)</b>	180
<b>COURSE ACTIVITY (Hrs)</b>	45
<b>PROPAEDEUTICAL SUBJECTS</b>	
<b>MUTUALIZATION</b>	
<b>YEAR</b>	1
<b>TERM (SEMESTER)</b>	2° semester
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	Not mandatory
<b>EVALUATION</b>	Out of 30
<b>TEACHER OFFICE HOURS</b>	<b>DI PIAZZA SALVATORE</b> Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00 Aula docente, ed. 12, Piano IV, stanza 4.09. E' preferibile avvisare preventivamente il docente. In ogni caso, per venire incontro alle esigenze degli studenti, altri giorni ed orari sono concordabili via e-mail.

<b>PREREQUISITES</b>	Basic knowledge of History of Philosophy and Philosophy of language are required. These prerequisites should be already acquired at the end of the first cycle degree in Philosophy.
<b>LEARNING OUTCOMES</b>	<p>ECTS credits for this course are awarded to students who:</p> <p>Knowledge and understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Solid basic knowledge of the main theoretical questions of the Philosophy of Language and its various paradigms;</li> <li>- Ability to historically contest the concepts of Philosophy of Language with particular reference to the concepts of belief and consensus in relation to argumentative practices, especially concerning the political sphere;</li> <li>- Acquisition of the philosophical-linguistic methodology to analyse philosophical texts with particular reference to the notion of persuasion.</li> </ul> <p>Such knowledge and understanding skills will be acquired by attending classes and seminars.</p> <p>The results will be verified during the lessons and in the final oral exam.</p> <p>Applying knowledge and understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proper development of the ability to analyze the main problems posed by contemporary reflection on the notions of belief and persuasion.</li> <li>- Ability to identify and use specific topics in the field of Philosophy of Language with particular reference to the notion of persuasion;</li> </ul> <p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ability to discuss about the concepts of belief and consensus in relation to argumentative practices, especially concerning the political sphere;</li> </ul> <p>Making judgements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to use the philosophies of language paradigms to analyze the practical issues that emerge in the public debate.</li> <li>- Ability to do bibliographic research and organize work autonomously</li> </ul> <p>These skills will be acquired by attending courses and seminars. The results achieved will be verified during the lessons and with the final exam.</p>
<b>ASSESSMENT METHODS</b>	<p>The course includes:</p> <p>1) an oral final test to verify the acquired knowledge, the language property and the mastery of the argumentation method.</p> <p>The oral test consists of an exam based on 1-2 questions for each text, concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the key concepts of argumentation (eg building of beliefs, notion of consensus, persuasion, etc.)</li> <li>• the structure of the text,</li> <li>• the method used by the author,</li> <li>• the philosophical context</li> </ul> <p>2) A (not mandatory) test to be conducted during the course to verify the ability to communicate and apply acquired knowledge, autonomy of judgment, and the ability to organize work autonomously.</p> <p>The student will have to discuss an article (possibly also an English article) suggested by the teacher and related to the topics of the course.</p> <p>The purpose of this test is to verify: - the autonomy of judgment, - the ability to set up a subject, and to find the bibliography autonomously</p> <p>To pass the exam and reach the minimum (18/30) the student has to show:</p> <p>A) Sufficient knowledge of the main subjects of the course</p> <p>B) An ability to use the technical language enough to be understood by the examiner.</p> <p>The maximum (30/30) is reached if the student shows:</p> <p>A) Advanced knowledge of the topics and critical understanding of the theoretical issues of the Philosophy of Language with particular reference to the notion of persuasion</p> <p>B) Advanced ability to apply knowledge and problem solving also in an innovative way</p> <p>C) Full property of specific language</p> <p>D) Capacity to organize work autonomously and innovatively</p>
<b>EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES</b>	<p>The course mainly aims at ensuring that the student is able to manage the main issues relating to persuasion and belief with a particular concern on political sphere. In particular, two strictly intertwined notions will be investigated, belief and consensus: what does "to believe" mean? How is a belief built and strengthened? What is the connection with notion of consensus?</p> <p>To answer these questions we will analyze philosophical in particular the wittgensteinian framework from On certainty and some text from the ancient philosophical tradition.</p>

	Classical philosophical texts will be read and commented. Seminars held by students will be included in order to strengthen their argumentative skills. In order to enhance the coordination with other courses, a part of the program will be dedicated to the trans-disciplinary topic "Identity and conflict".
<b>TEACHING METHODS</b>	Frontal teaching; Seminars held by the students
<b>SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	1. M. Serra, Retorica, argomentazione, democrazia. Per una filosofia politica del linguaggio, Roma, Aracne 2. L. Wittgenstein, Della certezza, Roma, Einaudi 3. L. Perissinotto, Logica e immagine del mondo. Studio su Über Gewibheit di L. Wittgenstein, Milano, Guerini Ulteriore materiale didattico, anche in lingua inglese, verra' distribuito nel corso dell'anno.

## SYLLABUS

<b>Hrs</b>	<b>Frontal teaching</b>
1	Overview on the scientific objectives
2	General framework
4	"Believing" is said in many ways
4	Belief and argumentation
2	Persuading and convincing
4	A rhetorical perspective on belief
10	Belief, consensus, politics
10	Reading and analyzing "On certainty"
4	Trans-disciplinary focus on the topic "Identity and conflict": reflectiots on religious belief
<b>Hrs</b>	<b>Practice</b>
4	Seminars held by students on some topics of the course