


PONTIFÍCIA UNIVERSIDADE CATÓLICA DO RIO DE JANEIRO			
CENTRO DE TEOLOGIA E CIÊNCIAS HUMANAS DEPARTAMENTO DE FILOSOFIA			
FIL 1006 - 1CA	History of thought		
PERÍODO: 2026.1	Course load: 60 hours	Credits: 4	
CLASS TIME: Tues. and Thurs. from 15h to 17h	Instructor: Maria Priscilla Coelho		

OBJECTIVES	<p>The course intends to foster critical thinking by: promoting acquaintance with key philosophical questions and a few attempts to discuss them; and by encouraging reflection upon the connections between the ontological, epistemological and ethical aspects of those questions.</p>
DESCRIPTION	<p>This course intends to address some of the main questions raised along the history of philosophy: [unit I] “What makes us think?”; “Why is there something rather than nothing?”; “How do we make the present heroic?”; [unit II] “What can I know? What must I do? What may I hope?”; [unit III] “What is the meaning of life?”; “What is the relationship between our subjectivity and the structures of power that permeate our life in society?”. The course will follow a thematic approach, going back and forward in the history of thought. Different thinkers, as Arendt, Benjamin, Heidegger, Kant and Hadot, will help conduct the discussions.</p>
SYLLABUS	<p>The course will be split into 3 units: Unit I – What makes us think?; Unit II – What can I know?; Unit III – What is the meaning of life?.</p>

ASSESSMENTS	<p>Criteria 3</p> <p>AVERAGE = (G1 + G2) / 2</p> <p>If G2 < 3, thus average = ((G1 +(G2*3))) / 4</p>
ASSESSMENTS DETAILS	<p>There will be two main assessments: G1 and G2. First, for G1, one week in advance, a list of questions will be shared with students and students will pick one of them to write a 1200 words essay on it. (Format requirements: Times 12, 1.5 spaced, text justified). Students will submit it through Google Classroom (or email). The second main assignment, G2, will be a group project. Students will present a seminar about one of the topics to be shared in advance. Exceptions must be discussed individually with the course instructor.</p> <p>The calendar and the types of assessments are subject to change according to class agreements.</p>
REQUIRED READINGS	<p>ARENDT, H. The life of the mind. San Diego, New York, London: Harcourt, Inc, 1978.</p> <p>BENJAMIN, W. The work of art in the age of its technological reproducibility and other writings on media. Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2008.</p> <p>HADOT, P. Philosophy as a way of life. Spiritual exercises from Socrates to Foucault. Ed. Arnold Davidson. Translated by Michael Chase. Oxford, UK & Cambridge, USA, 1995.</p> <p>HEIDEGGER, M. Introduction to metaphysics. Translators: Gregory Fried and Richard Polt. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2000.</p> <p>KANT, I. Critique of pure reason. Translated by Paul Guyer and Allen Wood. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.</p> <p>OBS: The references are subject to change according to the pedagogical needs of the course.</p>
SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES	<p>ANNAS, J. The Morality of Happiness. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.</p>

ARENDT, H. **Between the past and the future**. New York: The viking Press, 1961.

BANICKI, K. "Philosophy as Therapy: Towards a Conceptual Model." **Philosophical Papers** 43/1: 2014, p. 7-31.

BAUDELAIRE, C. **The flowers of evil**. Translated by James McGowan. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

BENJAMIN, W. **The writer of modern life**. Essays on Charles Baudelaire. Translated by Howard Eiland, Edmund Jephcott, Rodney Livingston, and Harry Zohn. Massachusetts and England: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2006.

CHASE, M. "Observations on Pierre Hadot's Conception of Philosophy as a Way of Life." **Practical Philosophy** 8/2: 2007, p. 5-17.

DAVIDSON, A. "Spiritual Exercises and Ancient Philosophy: An Introduction to Pierre Hadot." **Critical Inquiry** 16/3: 1990, p. 475-482.

ENGSTROM, S.; WHITING, J. **Aristotle, Kant, and the stoics: rethinking happiness and duty**. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

FOUCAULT, M. **The Care of the Self**. New York: Pantheon, 1986.

_____. **The Courage of the Truth** (The Government of Self and Others II): Lectures at the College de France 1983-1984. Edited by Arnold I. Davidson. Translated by Graham Burchell. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

GUYER, P. "The Unity of Reason: Pure Reason as Practical Reason in Kant's Early Conception of the Transcendental Dialectic". **Kant on Freedom, Law and Happiness**. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000, p. 60-97.

KANT, I. **Practical Philosophy**. Translated by M. Gregor. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

KIRK, G.; RAVEN, J. **The presocratic philosophers: a critical history with a selection of texts**. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1960.

NUSSBAUM, M. **The Therapy of Desire: Theory and Practice in Hellenistic Ethics**. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994

SELLARS, J. **The Art of living**. The Stoics on the Nature and Function of Philosophy. London: Bristol Classical, 2009.

WITTGENSTEIN, L. **Philosophical Investigations**. Translated by G. E. M. Anscombe. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1988.

RESEARCH REFERENCES	<p>Home - Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy, www.rep.routledge.com/. Accessed 07 July 2025.</p> <p>Perseus Digital Library, www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/. Accessed 07 July 2025.</p> <p>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Stanford University, plato.stanford.edu/. Accessed 07 July 2025.</p>
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