

# PONTIFÍCIA UNIVERSIDADE CATÓLICA DO RIO DE JANEIRO



**CENTER OF THEOLOGY AND HUMAN SCIENCES  
PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT**

<b>FIL 1006 - 1CA</b>	<b>History of thought</b>	
<b>SEMESTER 2025.1</b>	<b>Course load: 60 horas</b>	<b>Credits: 4</b>
<b>TIME:</b> Tue and Thur 15h- 17h	<b>Professor(a): Maria Priscilla Coelho</b>	

<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<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>
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<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>
<b>SYLLABUS</b>	<p>The course is split into 3 units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit I – What makes us think?;</li> <li>Unit II – What can I know?;</li> <li>Unit III – What is the meaning of life?.</li> </ul>

<b>ASSESSMENTS</b>	<p><b>Criteria 3</b></p> <p>AVERAGE = ( <b>G1 + G2</b> ) / 2  If G2 &lt; 3,  thus AVERAGE = ( ( <b>G1 +(G2*3)</b> ) ) / 4</p>
<b>ASSESSMENTS DETAILS</b>	<p>There will be two main assessments. First, one week in advance, a list of questions will be shared with you and you will pick one to write a 1200 words essay about it. (Format requirements: Times 12, 1.5 spaced, text justified). You will submit it through Google Classroom (or email). The second main assignment will be a group project. You 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>
<b>REQUIRED READINGS</b>	<p>ARENDR, H. <b>The life of the mind</b>. San Diego, New York, London: Harcourt, Inc, 1978.</p> <p>BENJAMIN, W. <b>The work of art in the age of its technological reproducibility and other writings on media</b>. Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2008.</p> <p>HADOT, P. <b>Philosophy as a way of life</b>. Spiritual exercises from Socrates to Foucault. Ed. Arnold Davidson. Translated by Michael Chase. Oxford, UK &amp; Cambridge, USA, 1995.</p> <p>HEIDEGGER, M. <b>Introduction to metaphysics</b>. Translators: Gregory Fried and Richard Polt. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2000.</p> <p>KANT, I. <b>Critique of pure reason</b>. Translated by Paul Guyer and Allen Wood. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.</p> <p>OBS: The required readings and references are subject to change according to the pedagogical needs of the course.</p>
<b>SUPPLEMENTAR Y READINGS</b>	<p>ANNAS, J. <b>The Morality of Happiness</b>. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.</p> <p>ARENDR, H. <b>Between the past and the future</b>. New York: The viking Press, 1961.</p> <p>BAUDELAIRE, C. <b>The flowers of evil</b>. Translated by James McGowan. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.</p>

	<p>BENJAMIN, W. <b>The writer of modern life</b>. 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.</p> <p>CHASE, M. "Observations on Pierre Hadot's Conception of Philosophy as a Way of Life." <b>Practical Philosophy</b> 8/2: 2007, p. 5-17.</p> <p>DAVIDSON, A. "Spiritual Exercises and Ancient Philosophy: An Introduction to Pierre Hadot." <b>Critical Inquiry</b> 16/3: 1990, p. 475-482.</p> <p>ENGSTROM, S.; WHITING, J. <b>Aristotle, Kant, and the stoics: rethinking happiness and duty</b>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.</p> <p>FOUCAULT, M. <b>The Care of the Self</b>. New York: Pantheon, 1986.</p> <p>_____. <b>The Courage of the Truth</b> (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.</p> <p>GUYER, P. "The Unity of Reason: Pure Reason as Practical Reason in Kant's Early Conception of the Transcendental Dialectic". <b>Kant on Freedom, Law and Happiness</b>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000, p. 60-97.</p> <p>KANT, I. <b>Practical Philosophy</b>. Translated by M. Gregor. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.</p> <p>KIRK, G.; RAVEN, J. <b>The presocratic philosophers: a critical history with a selection of texts</b>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1960.</p>
<p><b>REFERENCES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH</b></p>	<p>BANICKI, K. "Philosophy as Therapy: Towards a Conceptual Model." <b>Philosophical Papers</b> 43/1: 2014, p. 7-31.</p> <p>NUSSBAUM, M. <b>The Therapy of Desire: Theory and Practice in Hellenistic Ethics</b>. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994.</p> <p>SELLARS, J. <b>The Art of living</b>. The Stoics on the Nature and Function of Philosophy. London: Bristol Classical, 2009.</p> <p>WITTGENSTEIN, L. <b>Philosophical Investigations</b>. Translated by G. E M. Anscombe. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1988.</p>