

Academic Year: ( 2019 / 2020 )

Review date: 07-05-2020

Department assigned to the subject: Humanities: Philosophy, Language, Literature Theory Department

Coordinating teacher: GAITAN TORRES, ANTONIO

Type: Basic Core ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 2 Semester : 2

Branch of knowledge: Arts and Humanities

**REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECTS THAT ARE ASSUMED TO BE KNOWN)**

No special requirement in this regard

**OBJECTIVES**

Basic competences

This course addresses three basic competences that are common to the degree:

(BC1) Evaluate policies and programs, their implementation, benefits, and results in both global and local contexts.

(BC2) Deliver critical judgments shaped by information coming from several domains ¿ Social Sciences, History, Economy, etc. ¿ and integrate them in the political debate.

(BC3) Use acquired analytical skills to confront postgraduate studies with a higher¿ degree of autonomy.

Specific competences

By the end of this course students will have demonstrated the ability to:

(SC1) Identify arguments and their basic components ¿ premises, conclusions, hidden premises, etc.

(SC2) Evaluate arguments in terms of validity, cogency or soundness

(SC3) Defend opinions and claims by taking into account the concepts and analytical skills introduced in the course.

(SC4) Identify common fallacies incurred by politicians in public debates.

(SC5) Enter some standard debates in Political Philosophy from the perspective (methods and concepts) developed in this course.

**DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME****1. Knowledge and argumentation****1.1. Knowledge**

1.1.1. The concept of knowledge

1.1.2. The value of knowledge

1.1.3. Knowledge and testimony

**1.2. Knowledge and argumentation**

1.2.1. Non-cognitive theories of argumentation

1.2.2. Cognitive theories of argumentation

1.2.3. Mixed theories

1.2.4. Connecting knowledge and argumentation

**2. Arguments**

- 2.1. Preliminary concepts
- 2.2. Arguments; structure and basic components
- 2.3. Types of arguments
  - 2.3.1. Inductive arguments
  - 2.3.2. Deductive arguments
  - 2.3.3. Fallacies

### 3. Arguments and interaction

- 3.1. Preliminaries: reasoning in interaction
- 3.2. Scope and limits of interactive reasoning
  - 3.2.1. Discursive dilemmas
  - 3.2.2. Informational cascades
  - 3.2.3. Disagreement
  - 3.2.4. Polarization
  - 3.2.5. Conspiracy Theories
- 3.3. The relevance of arguments in interactive reasoning
- 3.4. Arguments in the public domain

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

This course is designed around a set of lectures and seminars. Lectures will be delivered once a week and in them the key concepts of the course will be introduced. Students are required to participate in a weekly seminar where (i) relevant materials related to the course will be discussed and (ii) key concepts and distinction will be applied through cases studies and exercises.

An ability to work autonomously and to keep up with reading and written assignments is required in this course. Regular attendance and participation is mandatory and both aspects will be taken into account for the global evaluation.

## ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The evaluation will consist in two parts: continuous-assessment and final-assessment. Continuous-assessment (40%) will take into account 1 mid-term exam, 1 essay (1000 words) and those sessions devoted to exercises and cases studies. The essays will develop a topic or problem raised during the seminars; sessions. For the final-assessment of this course (60%) students are required to write a long-essay (3000 words) where they will explore some concept or theme among those covered during the course. This final essay will be tutored from the very beginning of the course; topic, structure, readings, etc.

<b>% end-of-term-examination:</b>	60
<b>% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...):</b>	40

## BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Audi, R. Belief, Justification, and Knowledge, Wadsworth, 1988
- Bonjour, L The Structure of Empirical Knowledge, Harvard University Press, 1985
- Dancy, J. Introducción a la epistemología, Tecnos, 2010
- Dancy, J. A Companion to Epistemology, Blackwell, 2012
- Goldman, A. Knowledge in a Social World, Oxford, 1999
- Lackey, J Essays in Collective Epistemology, Oxford, 2013
- Nagel, J Knowledge, Oxford University Press, 2014
- Schick, T How to Think about Weird Things, McGraw-Hill, 2012
- Sunstein, C. Going to Extremes, Oxford University Press, 2008
- Weston, A Las claves de la argumentación, Ariel, 2010

## ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Sandel, M. Justice, Harvard University Press, 2007
- Sunstein, C. R. Going to Extremes, Oxford University Press, 2008
- Tallise, R How We Argue (and How We Should), Routledge, 2014

