

## Guide for E-learning

**Lecturer:** István Szekrényes

**Contact (official e-mail):** szekrenyes.istvan@arts.unideb.hu

**Name and code of the course:** History of Philosophy (ZEM-A-051B)

**Dates of course:** it was supposed to be on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup> and they are changed to April 18<sup>th</sup>, April 25<sup>th</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup> (these dates are only provisional, the exact time is matter of individual consultations)

### Short description

The aim of the course is to gain insight into the history of European philosophy from the ancient Greeks to the post-modern authors of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We plan to use the work of Bertrand Russel as a primary guide to get to know the renowned representatives and traditions of various philosophical schools. Given the fact that Russel is already part of the history (and according to the paradigms of his time, he also tends to subjectively evaluate the less scientific ways of thinking), we have to extend the literature with other introductions from Nigel Warburton, Anthony Kenny and Roger Scruton and some primer text, and recent reviews of the contemporary philosophy. The students do not have to read all this books, they are allowed to choose which one helps to better understand a particular topic.

### Compulsory Literature

Bertrand Russel: The History of Western Philosophy. New York: Simon & Schuster. 1972  
<http://www.ntslibrary.com/PDF%20Books/History%20of%20Western%20Philosophy.pdf>

Nigel Warburton: A Little History of Philosophy. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1962. <https://philocyclevl.files.wordpress.com/2016/10/nigel-warburton-a-little-history-of-philosophy-yale-university-press-2011.pdf>

Anthony Kenny: An Illustrated Brief History of Western Philosophy. Balckwell Publishing, 2006. <https://svetlogike.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/an-illustrated-brief-history-of-western-philosophy.pdf>

Roger Scruton: A Short History of Modern Philosophy. London and New York: Routledge. 1995. <https://portalconservador.com/livros/Roger-Scruton-A-Short-History-of-Modern-Philosophy.pdf>

## **Recommended Literature**

*Some very quick introduction to the history of Philosophy:*

<https://aav-sofia.weebly.com/uploads/9/8/0/3/9803920/historyofphilosophyandphilosophers-130903222319-.pdf>

[https://www.philosophybasics.com/general\\_quick\\_history.html](https://www.philosophybasics.com/general_quick_history.html)

*A great map for the history of Philosophy:*

<https://superscholar.org/history-of-philosophy/>

*Some primer text of Analytic Language Philosophy:*

<http://www.scu.edu.tw/philos/98class/Peng/05.pdf>

[https://www.uvm.edu/~lderosse/courses/lang/Russell\(1905\).pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/~lderosse/courses/lang/Russell(1905).pdf)

*An article about Karl Popper's views about science:*

<https://www.iep.utm.edu/pop-sci/>

*An article about Tomas Kuhn and his revolutionary work in the Philosophy of Science:*

[https://philosophynow.org/issues/131/Thomas\\_Kuhn\\_1922-1996](https://philosophynow.org/issues/131/Thomas_Kuhn_1922-1996)

*Some free lectures from Michael Foucault:*

<http://www.openculture.com/2013/12/michel-foucault-delivers-his-lecture-on-truth-and-subjectivity.html>

<http://www.openculture.com/2014/08/michel-foucaults-lecture-the-culture-of-the-self.html>

*And what else interests you and would like to include...*

## **The Way of Online Consultation**

If the students run into problems while reading the literature, they may request an online consultation from the lecturer. The pre-planned dates and topics of consultations can be found in the syllabus, but the students can choose other dates and they are asked to send their individual list of questions in advance via e-mail. The consultation itself can be performed via Zoom, Google Class or other platforms they prefer.

## **The Way of the Exam**

It is depend on the actual epidemiological situation. If the visit ban is lifted by the exam period I would prefer oral exams but the most likely scenario is that the students has to solve an online test (or take an oral exam via Zoom) regarding the compulsory literature. The

students also have the possibility to write an essay (5-6 pages long) about their field of interests. It is not obligatory and does not replace the exam but I give credit for that and it can improve the grade. The exams itself contains two parts. In the first part, the students needs to prove that they aware of the whole picture (the complete history of the field) without going into the details. While in the second part, they need to master the area of your choice (the theories of a specific philosopher or period). Some examiner questions are included in the syllabus, but they are not surely the same as the actual exam questions.

## **5. Syllabus**

### ***Week 1 (18<sup>th</sup> of April)***

Topic: The philosophy of the ancient Greeks

Subtopics:

1. The Pre-Socratics
2. Plato and Socrates
3. The Philosophy of Aristotle
4. Stoicism, Cynicism, Scepticism
5. Epicureans

Examiner questions:

1. How Heraclitus saw the world?
2. What was the theory of ideas in Plato's philosophy?
3. What is "syllogism" in Aristotle's logic?
4. What are the "actualities" and the "potentialities" in Aristotle's philosophy?
5. What was the answer of Diogenes to the question of the great Alexander?

### ***Week 2 (25<sup>th</sup> of April)***

Topic: From the Middle Ages (Catholic Philosophy in Russel's book) to the early Modern Philosophy

Subtopics:

1. Early Christian Philosophy: Saint Augustine and Boethius
2. Medieval "Scholastic" Philosophy: Saint Anselm, Abelard, Saint Thomas Aquinas, Occam
3. Philosophy of Renaissance: Galileo Galilei, Francis Bacon

4. Rationalism: Descartes, Leibniz and Spinoza
5. Brit empiricism: John Locke and David Hume
6. Political Philosophy of Tomas Hobbes and John Locke

Examiner questions:

1. What is the “City of God” according to Saint Augustine?
2. What was the argument of Saint Anselm for the existence of God?
3. What was Descartes’s fourth *Meditation* about?
4. Where do our ideas come from according to Locke?
5. What is the main difference between the political philosophy of Lock and Hobbes?

### **Week 3 (9<sup>th</sup> of May)**

Topic: Modern and Post-modern Philosophy

Subtopics:

1. The Critical Philosophy of Kant
2. German Idealism and Materialism: Fichte, Hegel, Marx
3. The Routes of Existentialism: Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche
4. Analytical Philosophy of Language: Frege, Russel, Wittgeinstein
5. Philosophy of Science in the 20<sup>th</sup> century: Karl Popper and Tomas Kuhn
6. Post-modern Philosophy: Hannah Arendt, Martin Heidegger, Michael Foucault (or whatever you choose)

Examiner questions:

1. What was Kant’s Copernican Revolution?
2. How did Marx describe his own philosophical vocation?
3. What was Hegel’s fundamental error according to Kierkegaard?
4. What did Frege mean by “meaning” and “reference”?
5. What does it mean that “a scientific theory must be falsifiable” in Popper’s philosophy?