



## Critical Thinking in Philosophy - Syllabus

### Thematic course (C1+)

#### Basic information

1. Organisation unit

Jagiellońskie Centrum Językowe

2. Education level

Full-time second-cycle programme

3. Course profile

General academic

4. Course type

optional

5. Language of instruction

English

6. Education period

Academic year 2023/2024

7. Course coordinator

Dr Halina Kozdęba-Murray

8. Course teacher

Dr Halina Kozdęba-Murray

9. Examination

Pre-examination with grade (zaliczenie) after one semester.

10. Number of contact hours

One semester - 30 hours per semester

11. ECTS points

No ECTS points, a final examination is not offered



## Course objectives

1. To refine the ability to understand and analyse spoken and written academic texts
2. To refine expression and presentation skills (in speaking and writing)
3. To develop course-related vocabulary
4. To refine the ability to interact in speaking and writing
5. To refine linguistic mediation skills in spoken and written communication
6. To refine the ability to continue linguistic self-development
7. To develop extra-linguistic competences that enable the student to participate in academic and professional environments

## Learning outcomes

### 1. Knowledge

1. Student knows and understands academic and specialized vocabulary in the range that enables fluent use of the language in speech and writing
2. Student knows and understands different academic and specialized texts, in speech and writing
3. Student knows and understands the necessity of life-long learning and methods of linguistic self-development leading towards professional success
4. Student knows and understands the elements of academic language typical for his / her specialisation

### 2. Skills

1. Student can understand complex lectures and other utterances typical for academic and professional environments
2. Student can understand complex scientific and popular-science articles, as well as other written course-related texts
3. Student can present opinions on course-related topics, in spoken and written form, and support them with arguments
4. Student can summarise long and complex academic texts and lectures
5. Student can write an academic or professional text
6. Student can present course-related topics in spoken utterances of various kinds, e.g. public speeches or formal and informal conversations, in language appropriate for the interlocutor
7. Student can engage in spoken and written interaction in typical professional contexts and in academic environments
8. Student can use linguistic mediation in spoken and written communication



9. Student can develop his / her linguistic competences

### 3. Social competences

1. Student is ready to successfully cooperate in a group, while accepting a variety of attitudes and opinions, and builds relations that promote respect for cultural diversity
2. Student is ready to participate in the academic, professional and social life, through sharing and popularising knowledge
3. Student is ready to continue his / her linguistic self-development
4. Student is ready to interpret and evaluate information and arguments, draw conclusions, identify positions, as well as present his / her own viewpoint in a coherent and comprehensible manner
5. Student is ready to participate in the recruitment process

### ECTS credits

#### 1. Contact hours (academic hour = 45 minutes)

30 hours per semester, 30 hours per course

#### 2. Student's total individual workload

45 hours per course

### Course description

The aim of the course is to develop students' skills at critical thinking in the context of philosophical texts and audio-visual materials. Additionally, students revise their knowledge of philosophy and learn how to put forward argumentation in a logical and coherent manner. The course is addressed mainly to students of philosophy but anyone interested in the subject is very welcome. It is based on different philosophical texts from ancient to modern times, as well as on B. Magee's interviews with contemporary philosophers, a series available on the Internet. The latter, as befits philosophy, is presented in the form of a dialogue and it is dialogue which is the most important learning tool during the course. Students can freely discuss their arguments with each other and in teams in order to reach the most logical conclusions. They can also choose philosophical issues they wish to discuss during the course. Philosophy, as it is grounded in the ability to wonder and to reason, has a liberating effect for every person willing to think and search for the truth.

### Course Content

Topics and vocabulary related to the following topic areas:

1. Socratic *virtue*



2. Marcus Aurelius' *Meditations* and the Stoic School
3. Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*
4. J.J. Rousseau's idea of *nature vs. nurture*
5. F. Nietzsche, extracts from *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (the idea of *will to power & an overman*)
6. Spinoza's deductive reasoning on God.
7. D. Hume, the problem of evil as based on *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*
8. B. Russell's correspondence theory of truth and his idea of wisdom
9. Extracts from A.J. Heschel's *Who Is Man?*
10. H. Elzenberg and his axiology
11. V. Frankl, *Will to Meaning*
12. W.L. Rowe, *Philosophy of Religion*
13. Philosophy and literature
14. Philosophy and film
15. Philosophical issues and ideas as chosen by students
16. Analysis of selected course-related lectures and presentations
17. Analysis of selected course-related academic papers and popular-science articles
18. Creating academic and professional texts, e.g. critical essay, abstract, report
19. Delivering an academic or professional, course-related presentation
20. (Optionally) selected grammar issues related to the course content

## Additional information

### 1. Teaching methods

Oxford debate, brainstorming, group discussion, e-learning

### 2. Forms of obtaining credit

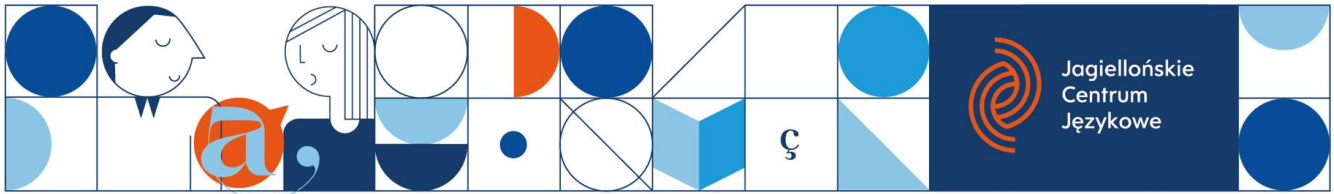
Writing task (detailed instructions will be provided in due course); written test in topics covered during the semester; delivering a 15 minute presentation (plus 10 minutes for discussion) in a mini-conference session related to the course subject.

### 3. Conditions of obtaining credit

Completing all tasks as well as written and spoken assignments with a score of at least 60% of the maximum number of points per semester.

Regular attendance. Without the appropriate justification, the student may miss no more than two 90-minute classes per semester if the course covers 30 hours per semester.

### 4. Entry requirements



It is assumed that the Participants entering this course already know the lexis and grammar issues at C1 level, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, as well as possess the appropriate skills to communicate successfully in speech and writing in everyday situations and the academic context at C1 level.

## Resources

### 1. Obligatory literature:

Authentic materials in English, adapted for course purposes

### 2. Additional materials:

- 1) Plato, *The Apology* (extracts)
- 2) Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations* (extracts)
- 3) Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*
- 4) F. Nietzsche, extracts from *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*
- 5) D. Hume, the problem of evil as based on *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*
- 6) V. Frankl, *Will to Meaning*
- 7) A.J. Heschel's *Who Is Man?* (extracts)
- 8) W.L. Rowe, *Philosophy of Religion*

Websites: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Programmes from YouTube, e.g.: Brian Magee, *The Great Philosophers*