Courses in English
Course Description

Department
13 General and Interdisciplinary Studies

Course title
What do you really know when you get information? The Odyssey of Philosophy

Hours per week (SWS)
2

Number of ECTS credits
2

Course objective
The lectures are intended to provide a critical perspective of the information assets with respect to the knowledge building by learning from the historical confrontation of philosophy to weaken truths and the search for robust ones. Through colloquial discussions, students’ ability understanding others’ perspectives and constructing critically their own viewpoints will be promoted.

Prerequisites

Recommended reading

Teaching methods
Seminar in English, in which the lecturer will provide a general orientation in the subject, presenting the most important philosophical perspectives in dialectical confrontation (a sort of biography of philosophy), and inviting to go directly to most relevant sources. The student shall select a topic among the ones proposed by the lecturer to be thereafter developed and discussed within the seminar.

Assessment methods
Through a short and open discussion of the topic and a written paper in English.

Language of instruction
English

Name of lecturer
Dr. José Maria Díaz Nafría

Email
In order to establishing an early contact with the lecturer (who shall provide hints, announcements and materials), it is recommended to send an e-mail to Prof. Díaz Nafría (diaz-nafr@hm.edu) as soon as possible. Additionally, a course website will be used to the same purpose (see below).

Link

Course content
What trues have we access to? Can we put confidence in the information we get? The whole history of philosophy, as shown in the course, is a journey devoted to the lasting endeavour to go beyond the information we simply get, the hunting for truths upon which we can surely know. The historical venture of philosophy contrasts with the current confidence in the digital sphere, in which having the means to access information seem to be all that we need to quickly acquire the knowledge we eventually need. However, when we surf the Internet, we are not only navigating upon information, certainly also upon realms of dis- and misinformation whose connection to reality is broken. In the very dawn of philosophy, Socrates was disappointed with the fact that sophists could defend one statement and the contrary. Then he asked himself, after scratching the surface of so many apparently knowledgeable Athenians, what could be known for sure. The link to reality seemed to be broken and philosophers have strived from antiquity to nowadays to restore it.

Remarks
01 Architecture
02 Civil Engineering
03 Mechanical, Automotive and Aeronautical Engineering
04 Electrical Engineering and Information Technology
05 Building Services Engineering, Paper and Packaging Technology and Print and Media Technology
06 Applied Sciences and Mechatronics
07 Computer Science and Mathematics
08 Geoinformatics
09 Engineering and Management
10 Business Administration
11 Applied Social Sciences
12 Design
13 General and Interdisciplinary Studies
14 Tourism