**COURSE OUTLINE**

**(1) GENERAL**

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| **UNIVERSITY / Department** | * NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS / Department of History and Philosophy of Science   in collaboration with:   * ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI / Department of Philosophy and Education * UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS / Department of Philosophy * UNIVERSITY OF CRETE / Department of Philosophy and Social Studies | | | | |
| **STUDY LEVEL** | Postgraduate | | | | |
| **COURSE CODE** | ++ | | **SEMESTER OF STUDY** | 1st | |
| **COURSE TITLE** | ARISTOTLE, *METAPHYSICS DELTA* | | | | |
| **INSTRUCTOR(S)** | PANTELIS GOLITSIS | | | | |
| **TEACHING ACTIVITIES** | | **TEACHING HOURS PER WEEK** | | | **ECTS** |
| Seminars | | 3 | | | 10 |
| **COURSE TYPE** | specialization, skills development | | | | |
| **PREREQUISITE COURSES** | – | | | | |
| **LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION and EXAMINATIONS** | English | | | | |
| **COURSE OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS** | No | | | | |
| **COURSE WEBSITE (URL)** | https://eclass.uoa.gr/courses/PHS584/ | | | | |

**(2) LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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| **Learning Outcomes** |
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| The topic of this course is book 5 (Delta) of Aristotle’s Metaphysics, in which Aristotle clarifies several philosophical notions. The course will focus on the clarification of those notions that are crucial for understanding the subsequent books of the treatise.  Upon successful completion of the course, students:   * will have gained familiarity with close reading and interpretation of an important philosophical text; * will be able to apply their knowledge and understanding within the broader context of ancient philosophy; * will learn how to develop scholarly arguments in written and oral form; * will be familiar with translation theory and practice; * will be able to communicate clearly their conclusions and the reasoning and logical assumptions on which they are based to both specialist and non-specialist audiences; * will have strengthened the necessary skills to continue their studies independently. |
| **General Skills** |
| * Independent work * Teamwork * Work in an international environment * Work in an interdisciplinary environment * Generating new research ideas * Exercise criticism and self-criticism * Promotion of free, creative and inductive thinking |

**(3) COURSE CONTENT**

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Week** | **Topic** | | **1** | Introduction: The unity of the *Metaphysics* | | **2** | Chapters 1 and 2: ‘Principle’ and ‘Cause’ | | **3** | Chapter 2: ‘Cause’ | | **4** | Chapter 3: ‘Element’ | | **5** | Chapter 4: ‘Nature’ | | **6** | Chapter 5: ‘Necessary’ | | **7** | Chapter 6: ‘One’ | | **8** | Chapter 6: ‘One’ | | **9** | Chapter 7: ‘Being’ | | **10** | Chapter 8: ‘Essence’ | | **11** | Chapter 9: ‘Same’ and ‘Different’ | | **12** | Chapter 12: ‘Power’ |   **Week 1: Introduction: The unity of the *Metaphysics***  Ancient and medieval interpretations of the *Metaphysics*, which comprises fourteen books, viewed Aristotle’s treatise as containing the science of wisdom (*sophia*, identified to theology [*theologia*] or first philosophy [*prôtê philosophia*] in book *Epsilon*) and as pursuing a unitary aim, namely the knowledge of the first principles, which will be known as causes of the widest effect (identified to being *qua* being in book *Gamma*). This unitary picture changed radically through the genetic studies and the Aristotelian scholarship of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We will discuss those issues during our first meeting. The contents of book *Delta*, on which our course focuses, will also be briefly presented.  **Week 2:**  In book *Delta* of the *Metaphysics,* Aristotle distinguishes between different senses of notions that are (more or less) related to the first philosophy project that he is pursuing. He starts with the notions of principle (chapter 1: on *arche*) and cause (chapter 2, on *aition*), which are intimately related to the science of wisdom, which has been identified in book *Alpha* as “knowledge of the first principles and causes”. A student will present the first chapter, as well as a part of the second chapter.  **Week 3:**  Further on the notion of cause and its different senses. A student will present the remainder of chapter 2.  **Week 4:**  Related to the notions of principle and cause, which have been examined by Aristotle in chapters 1 and 2, is also the notion of element (chapter 3, on *stoicheion*, which is a particular kind of cause, namely a cause that inheres in hat of which it is the cause). A student will present chapter 3.  **Week 5:**  On the notion of nature (chapter 4, on *phusis*), which is also a principle. A student will present chapter 4.  **Week 6:**  On the notion of necessity (chapter 5, on *anagkaion*), which is related to causality. A student will present chapter 5.  **Week 7:**  On the notion of oneness (chapter 6, on *hen*), which several Platonists identified as the first principle. A student will present the first part of chapter 6.  **Week 8:**  Further on the notion of oneness. A student will present the second part of chapter 6.  **Week 9:**  On the notion of being (chapter 7, on *on*), the different senses of which are presupposed in book *Epsilon*. The distinction of these senses is crucial for identifying the path leading to the science of the first principles and causes. A student will present chapter 7.  **Week 10:**  On the notion of essence (chapter 8, *on ousia*), the different senses of which are presupposed in the central books of the *Metaphysics* (*Zeta*, *Eta*). The distinction of these senses is crucial for identifying the path leading to the science of the first principles and causes. A student will present chapter 8.  **Week 11:**  On the notions of same and different (chapter 9, on *tauton* and *heteron*), which are essential attributes of (universal) being. They have already been discussed to some extent by Aristotle in book *Gamma*. A student will present chapter 9.  **Week 12:**  On the notion of power (chapter 12, on *dunamis*), the different senses of which are presupposed in book *Theta.* The distinction of these senses is crucial for identifying the path leading to the science of the first principles and causes. A student will present chapter 12. |

**(4) TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS – ASSESSMENT**

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| **TEACHING FORMAT** | Face to face, in classroom. |
| **USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES** | Learning process support through the e-class online platform. |
| **TEACHING STRUCTURE** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | ***Activity*** | ***Semester Workload*** | | Lectures, Seminars | 39 | | Presentation preparation | 21 | | Independent study | 120 | | Project (paper preparation and submission | 120 | | **Total**  (30 hours of work per credit unit) | ***300*** | |
| **STUDENT EVALUATION**  *.* | 1. Active participation in the course and presentation (20%)  2. Final essay (80%)  Students will be assessed through a 5,000-6,000 word essay (80% [N.B. the word limit includes footnotes but not bibliography]) and a presentation (20%), which will serve as the foundation for the final essay. |

**(5) RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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| **Α. Primary Sources:**   1. W.D. Ross (ed.), *Aristotle’s Metaphysics*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1953. 2. W. Jaeger (ed.), *Aristotelis Metaphysica*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1957. 3. M. Hayduck (ed.), *Alexandri Aphrodisiensis in Aristotelis Metaphysica commentaria* [Commentaria in Aristotelem Graeca, vol. I], Berlin: Georg Reimer, 1891. 4. P. Golitsis (ed.), *Alexander of Aphrodisias. Commentary on Aristotle, Metaphysics (Books I-III)* [Commentaria in Aristotelem Graeca et Byzantina. Series academica, vol. 3/1], Berlin: de Gruyter, 2022.   **Β. Secondary Bibliography:**:   1. P. Golitsis, *Αριστοτέλης. Μετά τα φυσικά Λάμβδα*. *Η αριστοτελική θεολογία*. Herakleion: Crete University Press, 2021. 2. W. Jaeger, *Studien zur Entstehungsgeschichte der Metaphysik des Aristoteles*. Berlin: Weidmann, 1912. 3. C. A. Kirwan, *Aristotle: Metaphysics Books Gamma, Delta, and Epsilon*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1971 (21993). 4. C. D. C. Reeve, Substantial Knowledge: Aristotle’s Metaphysics. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2000. 5. C. D. C. Reeve (transl.), *Aristotle*,Metaphysics. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2016. 6. C. Shields (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Aristotle.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.   **C. Resources on the Web:**   1. S. Menn, *The Aim and the Argument of Aristotle’s Metaphysics*   (https://www.philosophie.hu-berlin.de/de/lehrbereiche/antike/mitarbeiter/menn/contents)   1. S. Marc Cohen and C. D. C. Reeve, *Aristotle’s Metaphysics*   (https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aristotle-metaphysics/) |