

COURSE OUTLINE

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

LECTURER	Jannis Pissis		
SEMESTER (fall/spring)	Spring		
SCHOOL	PHILOSOPHY		
DEPARTMENT	PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL STUDIES		
LEVEL	Undergraduate		
COURSE CODE	ΦΓ074.2	SEMESTER OF STUDIES (1-8)	5-8
COURSE TITLE	Spinoza: Ethics		
INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES		WEEKLY LECTURE HOURS	ECTS CREDITS
		3	10
COURSE CLASSIFICATION	Close reading seminar		
COURSE TYPE	Scientific area, Skills development		
TEACHING COMPETENCE COURSE	No		
PREREQUISITES	History of modern philosophy (recommended)		
TEACHING AND EXAMINATION LANGUAGE	Greek (Erasmus students can be given tutorials as well as write their essays in English or German)		
AVAILABLE FOR ERASMUS STUDENTS	Yes (see above)		
COURSE URL			

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

After successfully completing the seminar, the students

- will have become familiar with the structure and theses of Spinoza's *Ethics*, a seminal text of modern philosophy
- will have developed the capacity to relate Spinoza's overall conception as well as his particular concepts and theses to their historical context, especially with reference to the philosophy of Descartes
- will have developed the capacity to assess how the work of Spinoza has influenced modern thought to the present day
- will have struggled with the rigorous, geometrical structure of the *Ethics*, and will have developed the skill to orient themselves inside the web of definitions, axioms and theorems, to be able to follow and assess Spinoza's proofs

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Independent work

Team work

Practicing criticism and self-criticism

Promotion of independent, creative and constructive thought

3. COURSE CONTENT

Spinoza's *Ethics* (1677) is a seminal text of modern philosophy. The work presents the rigorous defense of a radical, innovative conception of man and the world – a conception considered scandalous in its time. The course will focus on the book's first two parts, which spell out Spinoza's metaphysics and theory of knowledge.

4. TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

TEACHING METHOD	Face to face		
USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES	Use of the platform UoC-eLearn for distributing course material and for communicating with students		
COURSE STRUCTURE	ACTIVITIES	SEMESTER WORKLOAD	
	Seminar attendance	39	
	Lesson preparation	40	
	Study of literature	40	
	Writing essay	131	
	TOTAL	250	

ASSESSMENT METHOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Written essay- Participation in class discussion
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5. RECOMMENDED READING

Text:

Spinoza, *Ethics* (1677) [English: Princeton UP 1985; Greek: Ekkremes, Athens 2009].

Secondary literature:

1. Beth Lord, *Spinoza's Ethics*, Edinburgh UP, Edinburgh 2010.
2. Yitzhak Melamed, *Spinoza's Metaphysics: Substance and Thought*, Oxford UP, Oxford 2013.
3. Stuart Hampshire, *Spinoza. An Introduction to His Philosophical Thought*, Penguin, London 1962 [Greek translation: Alexandraia, Athens 2013].