

## COURSE OUTLINE

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>LECTURER</b>	Konstantinos Kavoulakos		
<b>SEMESTER</b> (fall/spring)	Spring		
<b>SCHOOL</b>	PHILOSOPHY		
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL STUDIES		
<b>LEVEL</b>	Pre-graduate (level 6)		
<b>COURSE CODE</b>	ΦB 033.1	<b>SEMESTER OF STUDIES</b> (1-8)	5 <sup>th</sup> of higher
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	Dialogue and decision		
<b>INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>WEEKLY LECTURE HOURS</b>	<b>ECTS CREDITS</b>
		3	10
<b>COURSE CLASSIFICATION</b>	Exercise		
<b>COURSE TYPE</b>	Specific scientific field/development of skills		
<b>TEACHING COMPETENCE COURSE</b>	NO		
<b>PREREQUISITES</b>	-		
<b>TEACHING AND EXAMINATION LANGUAGE</b>	Greek		
<b>AVAILABLE FOR ERASMUS STUDENTS</b>	YES		
<b>COURSE URL</b>			

## 2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course aims at familiarizing students with two texts of contemporary ethical/political philosophy, Jürgen Habermas's "Program for grounding an ethics of discourse" and Panajotis Kondylis's *Power and Decision*. Upon completion of the course, students should

- Have acquired knowledge of Habermas's and Kondylis's views on the grounding of an ethics of discourse or the inability to achieve it.
- Have acquired knowledge of the particular place the two theorists occupy within modern ethical, social and political philosophy and the relevant discussions of our time.
- Have acquired knowledge of the basic traits of Habermas's reconstructive method and of Kondylis's value-free perspective in ethical and political philosophy.
- Have acquired a deeper knowledge and understanding of the dialectical between formalist ethics and its decisionist critique, as well as of their limitations.
- Be able to apply the concepts of Habermas's discourse ethics and Kondylis's decisionism in the analysis of contemporary problems of ethics and politics.
- Be able to compare contemporary approaches to ethics and politics with those of Habermas and Kondylis and one of Rousseau.
- Be able to critique such approaches and, reversely, to critique Habermas's and Kondylis's theories from their standpoint.
- Be able to critically analyze and reconstruct contemporary ethical, social, political and cultural phenomena on the basis of philosophical concepts.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

Collection, analysis and synthesis of data and information with the help of the appropriate conventional or digital tools.

Adapting to new situations

Independent work

Team work

Production of new research ideas

Respect for difference and multiculturalism.

Criticism and self-criticism.

Production of free, creative and inductive thinking.

## 3. COURSE CONTENT

During the course we will read and discuss Habermas's "Program for grounding an ethics of discourse" and Kondylis's *Power and Decision*. We will refer to the following issues:

- 1) The much promising program for grounding an "ethics of discourse" Jürgen Habermas formulated in the beginning of the 1980s that still remains at the centre of ethico-philosophical discussions on the possibility of a post-metaphysical concept of ethics.
- 2) The aim of Habermas's universalist, cognitivist ethical philosophy was to defend the project of modern Enlightenment against the attacks by scepticism and postmodern relativism. To achieve this goal, Habermas relied on the formalist concept of communicative reason he developed in his *Theory of Communicative Action* (1981).
- 3) Vis a vis this formalist theory a sceptical response is developed. Such response is the one by Panajotis Kondylis, developed in his *Power and Decision*. Instead of connecting ethics with reason, he connects it with the decision that aims at accumulating power in the context of antagonist relations between men.
- 4) The discussion of these fundamental texts of Habermas and Kondylis will give us the opportunity to refer to the broader dispute between universalism and relativism/scepticism

in contemporary practical philosophy.

#### 4. TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

<b>TEACHING METHOD</b>	Face to Face	
<b>USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES</b>	Projecting ppt-files during the seminar, using classweb and electronic communication media.	
<b>COURSE STRUCTURE</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>SEMESTER WORKLOAD</b>
	Exercise	39
	Preparation for the classes	143
	Preparation for the examination	65
	Examination	3
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>ASSESSMENT METHOD</b>	Three-hours written examination, to consist of three questions covering the breadth of the course, of which two are to be answered (in essay form). Comprehending and answering the questions will require both knowledge and critical thinking.	

#### 5. RECOMMENDED READING

- 1) Γιούργκεν Χάμπερμας: *Η ηθική της επικοινωνίας*, Εναλλακτικές Εκδόσεις; Αθήνα 1997.
- 2) Παναγιώτης Κονδύλης, *Ισχύς και απόφαση*, Στιγμή: Αθήνα 2012