

Course title	Introduction to Philosophy
Credits	6
University	UCM
Language of the course	Spanish/ English
Learning outcomes	<p>At the end of the BAES Programme, students should:</p> <p>LO1. understand the different disciplinary approaches to European Studies, including the way in which the different disciplines interact and enrich each other, so that they can grasp the richness of disciplinary perspectives on Europe and reflect on the added-value of multidisciplinary knowledge to understand Europe.</p> <p>LO2. have multidisciplinary knowledge on the fundamental aspects and values of the European Union and European integration as well as of European states and societies, which allows students to grasp the multi-dimensional issues, interests and ideas that are necessary to understand Europe as a political, economic, cultural and societal process in past and present times.</p> <p>LO3. be able to grasp the need for a general knowledge of different conceptual, theoretical and methodological perspectives to analyze and understand the European Union, and consequently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use various conceptual frames, theoretical approaches and methodological tools, that attempt to provide answers to the fundamental and practical questions that the European project is confronted with; • utilize means of comparison to answer to which degree similarities and differences across Europe exist, and how they define Europe at large; <p>LO4. have insight in European Studies as a multi-disciplinary field of scholarship and education, so that students are aware:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • of the importance of the academic knowledge development of various disciplines that feed into the understanding and explanation of Europe; • of utilizing the knowledge provided by these various disciplines, including their diverse conceptual, theoretical and methodological perspectives, in their own academic careers and/or professional work environments.
Course objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Introducing the students into some of the most fundamental debates of philosophy. 2) Introducing the students into different important philosophical approaches and trends of thought. 3) Helping the students review their own ideas and beliefs about different topics. 4) Understanding the intertwining of philosophy and all aspects of human life.

Content	<p>This course will cover the following content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The philosophical way of asking: what is...? • What is truth? • What is the right thing to do? • Utilitarianism, Kant • What is justice? • Rights and law • Libertarianism, egalitarianism • Affirmative action • What is beauty? • Aesthetics • Philosophy of art
Work format(s)	<p>Readings and discussion of fundamental texts; lectures.</p> <p>Each question will be introduced by a short classic or contemporary philosophical text. This text will be required reading for the session. The instructor will present additional information and will lead discussion about the text and about the ideas present in it.</p> <p>Students are expected to prepare the readings and to engage in the discussions.</p>
Manner of assessment	<p>The main goal of assessment will be to test students' understanding of the subjects and questions integrated in the syllabus and their capacity to express and justify points of view about those questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written final examination. It will include specific questions to test accuracy and a short essay and/or text commentary: 80% of the final grade. • Participation in discussions about reading assignments and lectures: 20% of the final grade.
Literature (required/recommended)	<p>The complete syllabus for the course will be presented in the first session and in the Virtual Classroom. Nonetheless, students will be required to use different works such as M. Sandel, <i>Justice</i> (2009), W. Kymlicka, <i>Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction</i> (1990/2001), or John Berger, <i>Ways of seeing</i> (1972) as complementary readings for the sessions.</p>