

## Metaphysics

Code: 100303  
ECTS Credits: 6

**2025/2026**

Degree	Type	Year
Philosophy	OB	3

## Contact

Name: Jaume Mensa Valls

Email: jaume.mensa@uab.cat

## Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

## Prerequisites

No prerequisite.

## Objectives and Contextualisation

Metaphysics is a compulsory subject in the third year of the philosophy degree. The general objective of the subject Metaphysics is to study the problem of being and its relationship with the problem of language and truth.

The specific objectives of this subject are:

- a) Achieve a global understanding of the metaphysical problem and its historical development;
- b) Understand the main concepts related to metaphysics;
- c) Read key metaphysical texts;
- d) Present hermeneutics as a current alternative (that is, "postmetaphysical") of classical metaphysics.

## Competences

- Act within one's own area of knowledge, evaluating sex/gender-based inequalities.
- Analysing and summarising the main arguments of fundamental texts of philosophy in its various disciplines.
- Placing the most representative philosophical ideas and arguments of a period in their historical background and relating the most important authors of each period of any philosophical discipline.
- Recognising and interpreting topics and problems of philosophy in its various disciplines.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.

- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Thinking in a critical and independent manner on the basis of the specific topics, debates and problems of philosophy, both historically and conceptually.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Accurately using the specific lexicon of the history of philosophy.
2. Applying philosophical rigour in a written text following the international quality standards.
3. Autonomously searching, selecting and processing information both from structured sources (databases, bibliographies, specialized magazines) and from across the network.
4. Communicate by making non-sexist, non-discriminatory use of language.
5. Communicating in the studied language in oral and written form, properly using vocabulary and grammar.
6. Demonstrating a personal stance over a problem or controversy of philosophical nature, or a work of philosophical research.
7. Discriminating the features that define the writer's place in the context of a problem and reorganising them in a consistent diagram.
8. Distinguishing and outlining the fundamental content of a philosophical text.
9. Distinguishing the topics of philosophical relevance in current debates.
10. Establishing relationships between science, philosophy, art, religion, politics, etc.
11. Explaining the specific notions of the History of Philosophy.
12. Expressing both orally and in written form, the issues and basic problems of the philosophical tradition.
13. Identifying the main ideas of a related text and drawing a diagram.
14. Indicating and discussing the main characteristics of the distinctive thought of a period and contextualizing them.
15. Organizing their own time and work resources: designing plans with priorities of objectives, calendars and action commitments.
16. Producing an individual work that specifies the work plan and timing of activities.
17. Recognising, with a critical eye, philosophical referents of the past and present and assessing its importance.
18. Relating elements and factors involved in the development of scientific processes.
19. Relating several ideas of the current philosophical debates.
20. Relating the various orders of the philosophical ideas of different authors and historical moments.
21. Solving problems autonomously.
22. Using suitable terminology when drawing up an academic text.

## Content

### I. Introduction

Concept of metaphysics, current panorama.

### II. The question of being

Plato and the metaphysics of the One. History and current interpretations.

Aristotle and being as being. History and current interpretations.

### III. Language and truth

Ancient (*Cratylus*) and medieval (*De magistro*) concept of language

Gadamer: language and hermeneutical experience

IV. The anthropological, linguistic and hermeneutical turn in metaphysics

V. Balance: Metaphysics, yet?

## Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Master class	45	1.8	7, 10, 11, 22, 14, 17, 19, 20, 1
Study and commenting on especially significant texts	15	0.6	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 8, 10, 11, 12, 5, 22, 15, 20, 1
Type: Supervised			
Presentations	10	0.4	4, 8, 11, 12, 5, 22, 13, 15
Tutorials	5	0.2	3, 8, 5, 15, 1
Type: Autonomous			
Preparation of topics and texts. Bibliographic expansion	20	0.8	4, 7, 8, 13, 15, 20
Reading. Aristotle, <i>Metaphysics</i> , 12.	12	0.48	7, 8, 13, 20
Reading. Grondin, "Introducción a la Metafísica", cc. VI-XI, pp. 181-380.	22	0.88	6, 9, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 19
Reading. Plato: "Parmenides"	15.5	0.62	7, 8, 13, 20

In classes the lecturer will present the topics and comment on some especially significant texts. It is very important to attend and participate in class.

In addition, the student will have to do three personal mandatory readings:

1. Plato's *Parmenides*;
2. The book Lambda (12) of Aristotle's *Metaphysics*;
3. Jean Grondin, *Introduction to Metaphysics* (available online through the library. <https://elibro.net/es/lc/uab/titulos/45768>), cc. VI-XI, pp. 181-380.

The student, individually or in a small group, must make a presentation of these readings and they will be the subject of an exam.

We will use the Virtual Campus basically to share the materials and deliver the activities. On the other hand, if the student would like to contact the lecturer, it is necessary to do so by email.

So that the student can schedule the course well, on the first day of class the teacher will post a calendar on the Virtual Campus with the most important dates of the course (exams, assignment submission, etc.).

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

## Assessment

### Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
First exam	35%	1.5	0.06	2, 4, 6, 9, 8, 10, 11, 12, 5, 22, 14, 17, 19, 20, 18, 21, 1
Oral presentation (and written report)	20 %	0.5	0.02	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 8, 16, 10, 12, 5, 22, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 18, 21, 1
Participation and class activities	10 %	2	0.08	3, 11, 5, 22, 13, 15, 18, 1
Second exam	35%	1.5	0.06	2, 4, 6, 9, 8, 10, 11, 12, 5, 22, 14, 17, 19, 20, 18, 21, 1

### SINGLE ASSESSMENT

The single assessment will be a written exam consisting of three parts:

- Questions of a theoretical nature about the contents (35%);
- Commentary on texts (35%);
- Questions (contents) and activities, comments and arguments about the compulsory readings (30%).

To pass the exam it is necessary that the overall mark of the exam is at least 50% of the possible mark and the mark of each part is at least 40% of the possible mark.

### Recovery exam

The recovery exam can only be taken if the student has obtained at least a 3.5 in the single assessment exam.

The characteristics of the recovery exam will be the same as those of the single assessment exam. Even if the student has passed one or two parts of the single assessment exam, he/she must take the entire exam.

### CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT

It is possible that the Department of Philosophy will establish (as will be done during the first semester) a period dedicated to evaluative tests. The teaching staff will indicate whether such a period exists or what the test dates are at the beginning of each course.

Continuous assessment presupposes class attendance, active participation and constant work.

To pass the course it is necessary: a) that the mark of each one of the two exams is, at least, 4; b) that the average of the various activities add up to at least 5. If a student does not meet these two conditions, it will be necessary for them to take the reassessment of the exam or exams that prevent them from achieving a pass. The student will only be able to appear for the reevaluation if at the time they have taken the partial exams.

The presentation is not subject to reevaluation, even if it is suspended.

The student who has only carried out evaluation activities for a value less than or equal to 30% will be qualified as Not Evaluable.

There is no second call.

The teacher will assign a day, time and place for the exam revision once she has evaluated the course activities and has given the overall qualification mark. Students who must take the reassessment will have a specific revision day once they have completed the aforementioned reassessment activity.

#### Observations on evaluation activities

**Exams.** The exam can consist of two parts: theory questions and commentary on a fragment. In the theory questions it will be necessary to give a reason for the content of the topics, the basic bibliography on that topic and the compulsory readings.

**Presentation.** The student, individually or in a small group, will give a presentation of between 20 and 30 minutes on an aspect or section of the required readings and will prepare a short work that they will share with their classmates on the Virtual Campus.

**Class participation.** The lecturer will value that students actively participate in class. Carrying out the proposed activities, preparing the classes in advance, expanding content, making contributions and sharing it in class is essential to take advantage of the course.

#### Recovery exam

The recovery exam will consist of a test that will combine theory questions and a text commentary.

#### NOTES

Erasmus students requesting to bring an exam forward must submit a written document from their home university justifying their request.

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

This subject entirely prohibits the use of AI technologies in all of its activities. Any submitted work that contains content generated using AI will be considered academic dishonesty; the corresponding grade will be awarded a zero, without the possibility of reassessment. In cases of greater infringement, more serious action may be taken.

## Bibliography

#### Compulsory readings

PLATO, *Parmenides* (Textos Filosòfics, 55), Barcelona, Edicions 62; i *Dialègs*, XIV (Fundació Bernat Metge, 144), Barcelona, 1995.

ARISTÒTIL, *Metafísica*, vol. 2 (Fundació Bernat Metge, 426), Barcelona, 2019. [Llibre XII].

Jean GRONDIN, Introducción a la Metafísica, Barcelona, Herder, 2006. Disponible en línea:  
<https://elibro.net/es/ereader/uab/45768>

#### Basic bibliography

DILTHEY, *El naixement de l'hermeneutica* (Textos Filosòfics, 76), Barcelona, 1997;

R. GABAS, *Filosofia del siglo XX*, dins J. Hirschberger, *Historia de la filosofia*, III, Barcelona, Herder, 2011.

F. NEF, *Qu'est-ce que la metaphysique?*, París, 2004.

Teresa ONATE, *Para leer la "Metafisica" de Aristoteles en el siglo XXI*, Madrid, Dykinson, 2001.

RECAS BAYON, J, *Hacia una hermeneutica critica*. Gadamer, Habermas, Apel, Vattimo, Rorty, Derrida y Ricoeur, Madrid, Biblioteca Nueva, 2006.

VATTIMO, G, *Mas alla de la interpretacion*, Barcelona, Paidós, 1995.

Note: In class or on the Virtual Campus, the lecturer will provide the specific bibliography for each subject.

## Software

The essay will be presented in a .doc and/or .pdf file.

If an online session had to be done, Teams or Meet would be used

## Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed