



UNIVERSITÀ DI PARMA

DIPARTIMENTO DI DISCIPLINE
UMANISTICHE, SOCIALI E DELLE
IMPRESE CULTURALI

RESEARCH DOCTORATE
IN PHILOLOGICAL-LITERARY, HISTORICAL-PHILOSOPHICAL AND ARTISTIC SCIENCES

DISCIPLINARY COURSE

TITLE: "It's impossible! Contemporary and historical perspectives on the logic and epistemology of modality"

INSTRUCTOR: Irene Binini

ECTS: 3

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed activity consists in the participation in a series of seminars focused on the metaphysics and epistemology of modality, and in particular on the concept of impossibility in philosophical and logical thought, both from a historical and contemporary perspective.

The format of the cycle is twofold.

Firstly, there will be 6 meetings (lasting 1:30h each, on a monthly basis) with speakers who are experts on various topics related to the theme of the course. The speakers will present and discuss their recent research. The presentation and discussion will be in English. The invited speakers are internationally renowned philosophers in the fields of logic and philosophy of modality: Timothy Williamson (Oxford), Amie Thomasson (Dartmouth), Graham Priest (CUNY), Sara Uckelmann (Durham), Francesco Berto (Amsterdam) and Mikko Yrjönsuuri (Jyväskylä).

Secondly, a discussion group will be organized. The group will be coordinated by Irene Binini and will be open to Master's and PhD students from the DUSIC department, as well as to colleagues from other Italian universities, who will meet monthly to discuss the topics of the course in preparation for the meetings with external speakers. Each meeting of the discussion group will last approximately one and a half hours and the discussion will take place in Italian.

The total number of meetings amounts to 18 hours (3 ECTS).

PhD students will be required to actively participate in the meetings with the external speakers and in the discussion during the group meetings.

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CALENDAR:

18 January 2021, 15.00-16.30: Discussion group meeting. Discussion of "Suppose and Tell" by Timothy Williamson.

25 January 2021, 15:00-16:30: Seminar and discussion with Timothy Williamson.

15 February 2021, 3 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.: Discussion group meeting. Discussion of "Norms and Necessity" by Amie Thomasson

22 February 2021, 3.00-4.30 p.m.: Seminar and discussion with Amie Thomasson

15 March 2021, 3 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.: Discussion group meeting. Discussion of "Mission Impossible" (forthcoming) by Graham Priest

22 March 2021, 3 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.: Workshop and discussion with Graham Priest

12 April 2021, 3 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.: Discussion group meeting. Discussion of Sara Uckelman's "Contradictions and impossibility".

19 April 2021, 3:00-4:30 p.m.: Seminar and discussion with Sara Uckelman

10 May 2021, 3 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.: Discussion group meeting. Discussion of "Impossible Worlds" by Francesco Berto

17 May 2021, 15.00-16.30: Seminar and discussion with Francesco Berto

7 June 2021, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.: Discussion group meeting. Discussion of "Medieval Formal Logic" by Mikko Yrjönsuuri)

14 June 2021, 15.00-16.30: Seminar and discussion with Mikko Yrjönsuuri

SUGGESTED READINGS (if any):

Timothy Williamson: "Suppose and Tell", 2020, OUP.

Amie Thomasson: "Norms and necessity", 2020, OUP.

Francesco Berto, Mark Jago: "Impossible Worlds", 2019, OUP.

Mikko Yrjönsuuri: "Medieval Formal Logic", 2001, Springer.

Other texts that will be discussed by the speakers but have not yet been published will be shared with the students.