

# TOPICS IN LOGIC, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Curso 2016/2017

(Código: 30001573)

## 1. PRESENTACIÓN

*The aim of this course is to present a publicly relevant debate on a topic of interest for logicians, historians or philosophers of science. We want to introduce the student to the intellectual style of these three disciplines, in particular the ability to clearly articulate your arguments. We also want to show the social relevance of this approach*

*In addition, our university library will contribute a module on information management skills (in Spanish only). Last, but not least, since every student in the program has to take this course we want them to build a research community that will help them throughout their studies.*

## 2. CONTEXTUALIZACIÓN

## 3. REQUISITOS PREVIOS RECOMENDABLES

*This course provides a general introduction that does not presuppose any particular background. If you want to follow this course in English, please do so only if you can read and write it correctly. Otherwise, we will transfer you to the Spanish-speaking section.*

## 4. RESULTADOS DE APRENDIZAJE

*The main three goals of this course are as follows:*

- The analysis of a philosophical debate, presenting the contending positions and weighting the cogency of their respective arguments.*
- Acquiring the basic information management skills required for conducting research in philosophy*
- Build a students' community that will provide support to its members throughout the Master*

## 5. CONTENIDOS DE LA ASIGNATURA

*Following the 2007 Great Recession the debate regarding the scientific status of Economics and the nature of economic expertise has gained a widespread attention both in the popular media and among academics (including noted economists themselves. See, for example, Krugman's public shaming of the discipline):*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/06/magazine/06Economic-t.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>

*In the course, and in the light of recent public debates, we will go over some classic debates regarding the way in which Economics produces both scientific output (in the form of models and explanations of economic phenomena) and a guide to public policy. We will do this by dividing the course in two interrelated parts:*

*I. Economic Models and the Crisis.*

*II. The Economist as Public Expert*

*We will analyze several papers presenting different elements of the current controversies surrounding Economics. Students are expected to read and analyze them and participate in online discussions as well as answering some questionnaires about their main points.*

*As to the second half, the UNED library will provide a customized program depending on the available electronic resources.*

## 6.EQUIPO DOCENTE

- [MARIA JIMENEZ BUEDO](#)
- [SOPHIE ALEXANDRIA KEELING](#)

## 7.METODOLOGÍA

*As for the first half of the course, each student will answer three questionnaires on a selection of papers available in ALF. The answers cannot go beyond 1500 words for each questionnaire. Part of the answers should be posted and discussed in a message board in ALF. The second half will be graded by the library staff.*

*If the student wishes to dig deeper in the debate presented in the course, s/he can prepare an essay under our supervision. Alternatively, if s/he does not pass the library module in February, s/he can compensate it in September with an essay. In any case, its structure and bibliography should be agreed with us in advance.*

## 8.BIBLIOGRAFÍA BÁSICA

Comentarios y anexos:

*In the first part of this course, we will discuss the following texts following the two main thematic blocks of the course:*

- Reiss, J. (2012). The explanation paradox. *Journal of Economic Methodology*, 19 (1), 43-62.
- Cartwright, N. (2005). The vanity of rigour in economics. *The Experiment in the History of Economics*, 118.
- Colander, D. (1992). Retrospectives: The lost art of economics. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 191-198.
- Fourcade, M., Ollion, E., & Algan, Y. (2014). The superiority of economists.

*In ALF we will upload additional texts and references for the students to answer the questionnaires.*

## 9.BIBLIOGRAFÍA COMPLEMENTARIA

## 10.RECURSOS DE APOYO AL ESTUDIO

## 11.TUTORIZACIÓN Y SEGUIMIENTO

María Jiménez Buedo

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Tuesday: 11.00-14.00

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## 12.EVALUACIÓN DE LOS APRENDIZAJES

*Each of the three questionnaires (plus discussion in the message board) will contribute 25% of the final grade. Their respective deadlines are November 15th, December 1st. and 15th. The library module will contribute another 20%. The elective essay will contribute the remaining 5% (or 25%, if it replaces the library module in September). It is necessary to pass each individual assignment to pass the course.*

## 13.COLABORADORES DOCENTES

Véase equipo docente.

## 14.Competencias

- Aplicar el estudio detallado de las obras y temas de autores relevantes a la investigación filosófica, interactuando con profesores que están desarrollando tareas de investigación propias.
- Usar fuentes bibliográficas, primarias y secundarias, en el área del pensamiento filosófico; saber utilizar las bases de datos (en ambos casos tanto en papel como electrónicas) y aplicar estos conocimientos en la elaboración de trabajos académicos y de investigación filosófica.
- Dominar las bases metodológicas y los conocimientos que permitan la integración de los múltiples saberes filosóficos en un proyecto de trabajo personal.
- Poseer las habilidades de aprendizaje que les permitan continuar estudiando e investigando en cuestiones filosóficas de una manera autónoma y personal.

## 15.Actividades formativas

- Prácticas presenciales en línea

- Tutoría en línea

## 16.English

Due to a glitch in our enrolment application, we cannot translate the sections in the navigation bar. But the content is in English, Just click on the link in Spanish (the translation of the link, if you need it, is below)

Presentación = Course description

Contextualización = Introduction

Requisitos previos = Course requirements

Resultados Aprendizaje = Goals

Contenidos = Course content

Equipo Docente = Instructors

Metodología = Format & Assignments

Bibliografía Básica = Readings

Comentarios y Anexos = Comments

Bibliografía Complementaria = Further Readings

Comentarios y Anexos = Comments

Recursos de apoyo = Related resources

Tutorización = Office hours & Contact

Evaluación = Grading