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**MA in Philosophical Counselling and Consultancy**

The International MA programme in Philosophical Counselling and Consultancy is organized by **West University of Timisoara**, Faculty of Political Sciences, Philosophy and Communication Sciences, in collaboration with **Ca’ Foscari University, Venice** and **Institut de Pratiques Philosophiques** in Paris, which will additionally grant the graduates their own certifications. At present, there are relatively few comprehensive programs of this type in the world - and none in East-Central Europe. Most philosophical practitioners, consultants, facilitators, ethical counsellors and philosophy for children facilitators, need to train in stages, over a long period of time and in various expensive separate packages, usually offered by private certified bodies. Our MA’s main purpose is the intense and comprehensive high-quality formation of well-trained professionals in applied/practical philosophy, which include philosophical counselling and consultancy for individuals and organizations, ethical counselling, and philosophy for children. The programme’s grounding view is that the philosophical practitioners need to be trained primarily in the critical methods of academic philosophy, particularly those developed from the original dialogical logic. Employing solid philosophical knowledge and general counselling skills, they facilitate the thinking of a client or group of people. Their activity is philosophical, because it focuses on significant, but problematic concepts, the kind of concepts used not only for everyday thinking and communication, but also as a basis for actions. Practical philosophers can often identify hidden assumptions, theoretical frameworks, and world views. These inform the sorts of questions they ask. They use their training and experience to help others find their own philosophical insights. Whereas academic philosophy is characterised by objectivity, and seeks to express thoughts in an impersonal way, philosophical counselling’s target is the personal philosophical experience in its relation to its conceptual objectivity. With social utility in mind, it does not seek to interpret the thoughts of an individual client or group in terms of impersonal philosophy, but to link thoughts to actions in the day-to-day life. The attainment of philosophical counselling objectives takes place, progressively, through the therapeutic engagement of philosophy via the five methods it generated: critical thinking, conceptual analysis, phenomenology, thought experiments, and creative thinking.Regarding its relation to medicine and psychology, our general view is that philosophical counselling addresses maladies which are not pathological diseases of body or mind, but mere disturbances of emotional homeostasis. Thus the philosophical domain of expertise is not compatible with the imposing or contradicting clinical diagnoses. Philosophical counselling has broadly ‘therapeutic’ goals in that it aims at alleviating anxiety and enhancing personal wellbeing, not in aspiring to substitute any form of psychiatric or psychotherapeutic practice. That is why philosophical skills need to be supplemented with training in psychological assessment and counselling techniques. In this respect we fully agree with Peter Harteloh: “When equipped with expertise in critical thinking and knowledge of sophisticated worldviews, [one] may be tempt[ed] ... to construe all emotional complaints as consequences of philosophical error ... As we learn more about physical influences on mood and rationality, the insistence on exclusively cognitivist explanations looks increasingly dogmatic … [D]ogmatic cognitivism betrays an ignorance of the trend in contemporary philosophy towards theories of embodiment, which emphasise the complex integration of mind and body”. This is why we believe that the philosophical practitioners lacking relevant qualifications should avoid all non-philosophical interventions and refer such clients to the qualified professionals. This means that practitioners should possess enough knowledge to generally discern whether the client’s problems are medical or not.

**CURRICULUM**

**MA IN PHILOSOPHICAL COUNSELLING AND CONSULTANCY**

**1ST YEAR OF STUDY**

**ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-2016**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Nr.  crt. | Disciplina | C1 | C2 | Codul disciplinei | Semestrul I  14 saptamani | | | | | | Semestrul II  14 saptamani | | | | | |
| C | S | L | P | V | Cr | C | S | L | P | V | Cr |
| Discipline sinteză | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Existential phenomenology and human ontology - Prof.dr.  V. Ciomos | DSi | DI |  | 1 | 1 |  |  | E | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. | The Analysis of knowledge-Lect.dr.  O. Repolschi | DSi | DI |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |  | E | 5 |
| 3. | Care and responsibility ethics - Lect.dr. A. Wilmes | DSi | DI |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |  | C | 4 |
| 4. | Philosophical tools of argumentation, deliberation and critical reasoning -Lect.dr. O. Repolschi (C)/ Dr.  F. Bierre (S) | DSi | DI |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 2 |  |  | E | 6 |
| 5. | Theory and practice of philosophical counselling – Conf.dr. F. Lobont | DSi | DI |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 2 |  |  | E | 6 |
| 6. | Philosophy of intersubjectivity and religiosity - Prof.dr. V. Ciomos | DSi | DI |  | 1 | 1 |  |  | E | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7. | Philosophy as way of life and spiritual practice – Conf.dr. C. Mesaros (C)/ Lect.drd. V. Chernenko (S) | DSi | DI |  | 1 | 2 |  |  | E | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Discipline aprofundare | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. | Pragmatics and techniques of communication – Conf.dr. D. Dumitru | DA | DI |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | E | 5 |
| 9. | Theistic philosophical counselling - Prof.dr. R. Manning | DA | DI |  | 1 |  |  |  | C | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10. | Corporate management and communication – Lect.dr. O. Barbu | DA | DI |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | C | 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11. | Foundations of counselling and psychotherapy – Lect.dr. B. Tulbure | DA | DI |  | 1 | 1 |  |  | E | 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12. | Psychology of organisations and groups - Lect.dr. M. Ciumagean | DA | DI |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | E | 4 |
| 13. | Psychopathy and philosophy of psychiatry – Lect. dr. A. Wilmes | DA | DI |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | E | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL | | | | 7 | 5 | 2 |  | - | 30 | 6 | 6 | 2 |  | **-** | 30 |
| **Total ore didactice pe săptămână** | | | | | 14 | | | | | | 14 | | | | | |

**2ND YEAR OF STUDY**

**ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-2017**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Nr.  crt. | Disciplina | C1 | C2 | Codul disciplinei/ Subject code | 3rd Term  14 weeks | | | | | | 4th Term  14 weeks | | | | | |
| C | S | L | P | V | ETC | C | S | L | P | V | ETC |
| Synthesis subjects | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Epistemology of psychother-apy - **Dr. A. Wilmes** | Dsi | DI | CCF211 | 1 | 1 |  |  | E | 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. | General principles of psychopatho-logyand clinical semiology – **MD Dr. D. Reisz** | Dsi | DI | CCF212 | 2 |  | 1 |  | E | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. | Personal branding – **Dr. O. Barbu** | Dsi | DI | CCF213 | 1 |  |  | 1 | C | 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. | Philosophy with children – **Dr. F. Bierre** (P) /**Dr. F. Lobont** (C, P) | Dsi | DI | CCF214/  CCF221 | 1 |  |  | 1 | E | 4 |  |  |  | 2 | E | 4 |
| 5. | Introduction to practical ethics – **Prof. R. Manning** | Dsi | DI | CCF215 | 1 |  |  |  | C | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. | Counselling skills – **Dr. A. Ionescu** | DA | DI | CCF222 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 | C | 4 |
| 7. | Applications of critical thinking în counselling, mediation and communica-tion – **Prof. Gh. Clitan** | DA |  | CCF216 |  |  |  | 2 | C | 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| In-depth subjects | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. | The identity problem in philosophical counselling – **Dr Lobont/Dr. A. Rossi** | DA | DI | CCF217 | 1 |  |  |  | C | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9. | Techniques of personal growth and management – **Dr. L. Staicu** | DA | DI | CCF223 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 | C | 4 |
| 10. | Clinical observation – **Prof. V. Ciomos** | DA | DI | CCF224 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | C | 4 |
| 11. | Methodology of disertation writing – **Dr. L. Vesalon** |  |  | CCF225 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 2 |  | C | 6 |
| 12. | Supervised individual and group counselling – **Dr. F. Bierre, Dr. A. Rossi, Dr. L. Staicu** | DA | DI | CCF226 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4 | C | 8 |
| 13. | Philosophy of interculturality  **Dr. S. Ciutacu** |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL | | | | 8 | 1 | 1 | 4 | **3/4** | 30 | 1 |  | 2 | 11 | **1/5** | 30 |
| **Total hours per week** | | | | | **14** | | | | | | **14** | | | | | |

**Legend**

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| **C1** = content criterion**DA** = in-depthsubjects | **DI** = obligatory (imposed) subjects**C** = Lecture**P** = stage |
| **C2** = obligativitycriterion**DSi** = synthesissubjects | **V =** examination (verifying) method**S** = Seminar **L** = lab |

Director departament,

Prof. univ. dr. Gheorghe CLITAN

Decan,

Prof. univ. dr. Robert REISZ

Coord. program de studii:

Conf. univ. dr. Florin LOBONT