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Teach Mob – Visiting Professors ***Academic year 2015/2016***

2nd term
COURSE TITLE Epistemology of cognitive sciences
Scientific area Philosophy of the cognitive sciences
Department of Philosophy and Educational Sciences
Language used to teach English
Course summary Epistemic artifacts are an important topic in contemporary philosophy and cognitive science. They are a signature of our species, and their massive use has reshaped our natural and social environment. They are the key element for theories of “extended” or “augmented” mind, and a frontier of design. Now, there are local accounts of many types of artifacts (provided by philosophers and psychologists of depiction and representation, scholars of writing systems, designers improving diagrams and lettering, etc.) But a unified account, based on the underlying cognitive mechanisms, is still forthcoming. The course proposes to explore the variety of cognitive artefacts (from mirrors to telescopes, from maps to the GPS, from lists to music notation, to writing, diagrams.) Some hands-on sessions will part of the course.
Learning objectives Surveying existing philosophical and cognitive theories of cognitive artifacts Understanding the role of epistemic artifacts in contemporary philosophy Understanding their impact on practices Understanding artifact cascading Developing historical and anthropological hypotheses about why certain simple artifacts have not been invented/discovered in certain cultures/historical periods Specific objectives: in-depth learning of some aspects of primitive and technologically assisted navigation, of music notation, and of writings, for understanding the ontological and cognitive aspects of epistemic artifacts.
Other activities besides the course: i.e. seminars and conferences addressed to PhD students and research fellows, dissemination conferences The visiting professor will take part to the research activities promoted by the Center for Logic, Language and Cognition (LLC), with talks and discussions.

Visiting Professor Profile The invited professor will be expected to be a major expert on issues which lie at the intersection between metaphysics, ontology and cognitive sciences, which are widely discussed within our Center for Logic, Language and Cognition (LLC). Therefore, he or she will be expected to have publications in international journals on such issues. Moreover, we would like the invited professor to be suitable and willing to teach an advanced course (magistrale) on epistemic artifacts that satisfies the description provided above.

Contact person at the Department
Prof.ssa Vincenzo Crupi
vincenzo.crupi@unito.it