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## ***Teach Mob – Visiting Professors*** ***Academic year 2014/2015***

<b>1st term</b>
<b>COURSE TITLE</b> History of Scientific Thought
<b>Scientific area</b> Historical and Philosophical Sciences
<b>Department of Philosophy and Educational Sciences</b>
<b>Language used to teach</b> English
<b>Course summary</b> The course will be a kind of atelier for the elaboration of a historical and conceptual approach to some relevant episodes in early modern science (conceived broadly as extending through the Enlightenment). The goal is to discuss and acquire familiarity with these episodes, as well as contemporary conceptual ‘appropriations’ of such episodes. Theories and methods in History of science have to be analysed looking at some of the historical material on which historians such as George Canguilhem or Lorraine Daston elaborate their ‘epistemology’. Similarly, the impossibility shall be shown to look at Descartes’ mechanism, William Harvey’s vision of the body, Boyle on air and gas or Lockean empiricism without taking into consideration the contemporary debates they have spawned. Without this being a strict procedural norm for each session, readings for each class will combine a ‘primary’ text and a variety of either ‘secondary’ sources or theoretical appropriations, although the final weeks will increasingly depart from the early modern emphasis.
<b>Learning objectives</b> Developing familiarity with methodological debates in the history and philosophy of science through a combination of the study of primary sources (eg Descartes, Harvey, Kant) and contemporary discussions from Koyré to Latour and historical epistemology.
<b>Tutorship activities</b> Tutorship for postgraduate students.

### **Visiting Professor Profile**

Assistant Professor

A scholar with outstanding international publications and very good experience in teaching.

She/he should also work primarily in history of science and early modern philosophy, with particular interest in materialism and vitalism. The required expertise includes also a thorough knowledge of theory, methods, and developments of history of science in its cultural and philosophical context. A high capacity to approach contemporary debates on the relationship between history and philosophy of science is expected.

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