Titolo: **Epistemology. A priori knowledge, definitions, and mathematical knowledge.**

Docente: Andrea Sereni

Ore: 10  
Crediti: 2  
Tipologia di corso: A (base)

**Description**

After introducing the basic concepts of analytic epistemology, we will explore some essential features of a priori knowledge, and investigate how mathematical and logical knowledge can be obtained. The role of definitions in the acquisition of such kinds of knowledge will be emphasized, and a crucial kind of definitions – definitions by abstraction – will be discussed, also in their relation with metaphysical notions such as grounding.

**Final Themes**

- Sources and kinds of knowledge  
- The traditional JTB definition of knowledge: origins and main features  
- Gettier counterexamples to the JTB definition and alternative definitions of knowledge  
- The causal theory of knowledge  
- Essential problems for mathematical knowledge and the Integration Challenge  
- Benacerraf’s Dilemma  
- Non-conservative responses to Benacerraf’s Dilemma (main features and examples)  
- Non-conservative responses to Benacerraf’s Dilemma (main features and examples)  
- Frege's Logicism and Neo-Logicism (especially the role of Hume's Principle)

**Final readings**

- Pritchard, D. (2018), What is This Thing Called Knowledge?, Routledge; Chapter 1, 3.  

**Further optional readings:**

- Panza, M., Sereni, A. (2013), Plato's Problem. An Introduction to Mathematical Platonism, § 2.1 and § 5.1

**Calendar:**  
January 15th, 14-17  
January 22, 14-17  
January 23, 11-13 & 14-16