**Invitation to Philosophy**

**Fall 2017**

**Instructor: Prof. PhDr. František Novosád, CSc.,**

**Language: Slovak/English**

Course Description:

This course will introduce you to the major problems and methods of philosophy with accent on anthropology and theory of culture. Philosophy is on one side about asking /as if for the first time/ “big questions” concerning our Being-in-the-World. On the other side it requires familiarity with intricate variety of basic concepts developed through the major thinkers in world history.

The book **An Essay on Man** written by **Ernest Cassirer**, the eminent philosopher of 20. Century, in agreeable way combines the systematic and historical approach to the basic models of philosophical thinking.

Philosophers should read slowly (but thoroughly) and therefore we will read and discuss *all in all* just this one book during the whole semester.

Electronic copy of the Cassirer´s book is at disposal thru Moodle

**Main Topics**

*What does it mean to be a human being?*

*From animal reactions to human responses*

*The human world of space and time*

*Facts and Ideals*

*The definition of Man in terms of human culture*

*Myth and religion*

*Language*

*Art*

*History*

*Science*

*Symbol and Existence: E. Cassirer in conflict with M. Heidegger*

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

* Identify and describe the major areas of philosophical inquiry
* Use philosophical terminology correctly and consistently;
* Identify and describe the views of a number of major philosophers
* Explain the broad outlines of the history of philosophy as a framework that can be applied in more advanced courses concerning social and political theory.

**Evaluation**

30% - 4 short essays (between 500 – 1000 words)

40% - several non-signaled in-class-tests

30% - active participation

Passing a course assumes that student was not absent at more than 4 sessions