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| Code of course: **BMA-LOTD-514.03, BMI-LOTD-514E.03, BBN-FIL18-342.03, BBN-FIL-342.28, BMA-FILD-342.31** |
| Title of course: **The Open Society and its Enemies – reading seminar** |
| Lecturer: **Zoltán Sóstai** |
| **General aim of the course:** An introduction in Karl Popper’s book in the form a reading seminar. The aim of the course is to analyse the book from the point of some of the key epistemological problems and themes central to Karl Popper’s philosophy called critical rationalism.**Content of the course:** **The themes to be intestigated include the following:*** The problem of methodological essentialism
* The problem of induction
* Justificationism and its popperian critique
* Progress by a way of conjectures and refutations
* Popper’s tetradic scheme of evolutionary problem-solving
* The problem of the quest for a utopian society by means of violent and revolutionary reforms in contrast to piecemeal engineering
* Open vs closed societies and the strain of civilization
* Poppers view of Plato’s philosophy and the origin of various the forms of goverments
* The problem of the “who shall rule?” question
* Platonic justice, perfectionism
* Individualism and collectivism
* Nature and convention, critical dualism and the is/ought distinction
* The institutional means of political critique
* The paradox of tolerance
* Popper’s critique of relativism
* The problem of uncritical rationalism
* Popper’s critical rationalism

**Grading criteria, specific requirements:** At each class we will read and analyse 1 to 3 chapters. The chapters will be divided amongst participants. Creating a small presentation is required for grading.**Required reading:** *The Open Society and it Enemies vol. I-II.* by Karl R. Popper**Suggested further reading:** *The Cambridge Companion to Popper* by Jeremy Shearmur and Geoffrey Stokes (Editors)*Pocket Popper* by David Miller (Editor) |