



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Political Philosophy (blended)

2021-2-E3901N051

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#### Course title

Political Philosophy.

#### Topics and course structure

The course aims at analyzing the idea of justice as a both formal and practical matter, as well as moral sentiments and negative emotions (such as anger, especially following the pandemic crisis). Therefore, normative notions conceptualized by political and social philosophy (such as like the idea of citizenship, human rights, fundamental freedoms, equality) will be presented, as well as forms of violation (such as social exclusion, political and domestic violence, marginalization), which prevents the free development of human capabilities, will be analyzed. This kind of knowledge is basic for the formation and training of future social workers, who have to be able to let interact foundational principles with professional practices.

#### Objectives

The teaching program aims at analyzing fundamental concepts, which lie at the basis of political theory and play a crucial role for the education and training of social workers.

The theoretical perspective of political and social philosophy is in fact fundamental for those

who intend to understand and apply deontological principles, the foundations of human rights, the respect for fundamental freedoms, especially when they are denied, creating inequalities and discrimination.

The course intends to highlight the question of human rights and the idea of citizenship as transformed over time, especially in relation to social norms and social policies, social workers have to respect and apply. For this reason, during the lectures in class and the exercises online, concept will be analyzed, referring to practical examples or specific case studies.

The course will be divided into a part devoted to lectures and a part of individual and group exercises related to the topics under consideration.

Students have to be able to relate theoretical knowledge with practical models, to apply concepts to empirical realities and vice-versa.

## **Methodologies**

Due to the pandemic crisis, the course will be totally online.

The course will last 56 hours:

- 40 hours will consist of lectures and
- 16 of exercises with a tutor.

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## **Online and offline teaching materials**

Social work profession is often understood as a merely “practical” activity, which is mainly related to experiential knowledge and the application of norms.

Vice-versa, this profession cannot be fully understood and practiced without the support of theoretical reflections and analytic instruments, which can contribute to orientate deontological behaviours, decisions and choices, mainly when social workers have to face difficult cases in problematic situations and in a short time.

The course will be developed through lectures and online exercises. The lessons will examine the different models of citizenship and the idea of human rights, as well as examples that indicate their violation. The exercises include individual and group work, will be focused on specific case studies.

Additional work material (also in English) related to the different activities of the course will be provided by the instructor during the lectures or the exercises.

## Programme and references for attending students

Students who will enroll and take part in the working groups will be meant as “attending students” and the study of a part of the books indicated in the program will be reduced.

The entire program will be presented at the beginning of the course.

- Luigi Ferrajoli, *Manifesto per l'uguaglianza*, Roma-Bari, Laterza, 2016.
- Martha C. Nussbaum, *Rabbia e perdono. La generosità come giustizia*, Bologna, il Mulino 2017.
- Michael Sandel, *Giustizia. Il nostro bene comune*, Milano, Feltrinelli, 2019.

## Programme and references for non-attending students

The course program will be totally on line, as indicated above.

Non-attending students have to learn all books as indicated in the bibliography.

At the beginning of the course a detailed program about the professor's lectures and the tutor's individual/ group exercises will be provided.

## Assessment methods

Written exam.

The evaluation of the exam is based on the following criteria: • Relevance of the answer. • Clarity and logical consequentiality. • Terminological precision. • Argumentative completeness and understanding of the texts. • Ability to re-elaborate the considered themes.

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## **Office hours**

Information of the office hours will be published on the teacher's website.

Office hours can be arranged with the students via skype.

## **Programme validity**

Information of the office hours will be published on the teacher's website.

Office hours can be agreed with the students via skype.

## **Course tutors and assistants**

A tutor will assist students in the different phases of the course.
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