UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

La Politica e le Politiche

2021-1-F8701N010

Learning objectives

The course aims to provide an introduction to the most relevant concepts and themes for the study of politics, for the understanding of problems debated in the public sphere and for the design and analysis of public policies.

Contents

The course will deal with three macro-themes, which will constitute as many articulations of the programme: 1) Introduction to the fundamental concepts of political theory; 2) Theories of democracy and populism; 3) Public policies: concepts, tools and case studies.

Detailed program

1) In introducing the fundamental terms of political theory, we will analyse the historical and theoretical meaning of concepts and themes such as:

politics and policy;

power, authority and legitimacy;

State and civil society;

the public/private dichotomy;

forms of government;

fundamental rights.

2) In the part dedicated to the theories of democracy and populism, we will explore the competing definitions and visions on the foundations, principles, procedures and forms of democratic government, and the tension to which neo-populisms subject contemporary liberal democracies. The topics addressed will include: history of the democratic ideal; concepts of freedom and equality; liberal democracy; majority and minorities; the principle of representation; deliberative processes; actors in the democratic process and forms of political participation. And: definitions and characteristics of populism; the relationship between populism and democracy. In addition, other important challenges for democracies will be discussed, such as: globalisation and nationalism; sovereignism, anti-Europeanism and anti-migration policies; politics and post-truth.

3) In the part dedicated to the study of public policies, we will address the fundamental concepts and main tools for public policy analysis. The study of specific issues will also be proposed in the form of exercises (individual and group presentations). In particular, presentations will focus on "care" policies, also in light of the crisis generated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Prerequisites

No special skills are required, but interest in discussing contemporary political issues, willingness to learn, passion for argumentation and active participation in the classroom.

Teaching methods

Teaching includes: frontal lessons; case study analysis; presentations by students; seminars with guests.

During the Covid-19 emergency the lessons will be held in in synchronous telematic mode, with subsequent publication of the video-recorded lessons.

Assessment methods

During the course, students have the opportunity to give a presentation, in presence or in telematic mode, which will be taken into account in the final evaluation.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The exam will focus on the contents of the lessons (video recordings and slides will be made available on the e-learning page), and on the following texts:

1) Stefano Petrucciani, *Democrazia*, Einaudi, 2014 – in particular: Part Two – *Democrazia: strutture e principi* (chapters 6 to 11).

2) A text of your choice from the following:

- Yves Mény, *Popolo ma non troppo. Il malinteso democratico*, il Mulino, 2019.

- Chantal Mouffe, *Per un populismo di sinistra*, Laterza, 2018. Those who choose this text will have to supplement the reading with: Ilvo Diamanti, Marc Lazar, *Popolocrazia*, Laterza, 2008, Introduction and chapters 1 and 3 [The pages indicated are made available among the course materials].

- Nadia Urbinati*, Io, il popolo. Come il populismo trasforma la democrazia*, il Mulino, 2020 (Introduction, chapter 1 and chapter 3).

3) A text of your choice from the following:

- Wendy Brown, *Stati Murati, sovranità in declino*, Laterza, 2013.

- Colin Crouch, *Identità perdute. Globalizzazione e nazionalismo*, Laterza, 2019.

- Lee McIntyre, *Post-verità*, Utet Università, 2019.

Students who will give presentations during the course will be allowed to study only text 1) and a text of their choice from those indicated in point 2) for the exam.

Readings for the presentations:

During classes, readings will be provided directly by the lecturer. Recommended reading: Giorgia Serughetti, *Democratizzare la cura / Curare la democrazia*, Nottetempo, 2020 (free downloadable ebook https://www.edizioninottetempo.it/it/prodotto/democratizzare-la-cura-curare-la-democrazia)