



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Philosophy of Mind and Theory of Affections

2021-1-F8501R024

Course title

MInd, Society, and Politics

Topics and course structure

This course investigates the impact of some recent debates in the philosophy of mind and in cognitive science on the relationship between psychology, society, and politics. the first part of the course introduces to some basic issues in the philosophy of mind. the second part focuses on the understanding of social reality, the explanation of cooperation, and the assessment of social institutions. in particular, the view that minds are provided with a natural capacity for social cognition and for cooperation will be examined. the normative dimension of social phenomena will be discussed in this connection, as well as the relationship between ethics, society, and politics.

Objectives

- understanding: acquisition of concepts, theories and methods
- application: case analysis and intervention planning in specific context (with emphasis on social and educational cases)
- autonomy: discussing and assessing theoretical models and empirical applications
- knowledge acquisition: understanding current research, interpreting and applying the relevant results.

Methodologies

Lecture

Online and offline teaching materials

Programme and references for attending students

I: elements of mind

- intentional psychology

- the mind-body problem

- consciousness

- language and thought

- social cognition

- culture and cognition

II: mind, society, and politics

- what is social?

- individualism and rationality

- cooperation and collective intentionality

- the construction of social reality: rules, institutions, and practices

- the problem of social order: contracts, conventions, and communities

- Justice and the moral sentiments

References:

1. One of these two texts

J. Searle, Mind, CUP, Cambridge 2001, chs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

J. Searle, The construction of social reality, Penguin, New York 1995

2. M. Tomasello, Why we cooperate?, MIT Press, Cambridge (MA), 2009, part I

3. M. Sandel, justice, penguin, new york 2010, ch. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9.

It is possible to change the mentioned 2nd text with a texts on the following list. It is also possible to agree different alternatives. Any change must be agreed with the teacher.

- C. Gilligan, *Con voce di donna*, Feltrinelli, Milano.
- A. Damasio, *Emozione e coscienza*, Adelphi, Milano 2000.
- M. Hauser, *La mente morale*, Il saggiatore, Milano 2005.
- T. Magri, *Contratto e convenzione*, Feltrinelli, Milano 1994.
- W. Kimlicka, *La cittadinanza multiculturale*, Il Mulino, Bologna 1999.
- M. Pinotti, *Empatia. Storia di un'idea da Platone al post-umano*, Laterza, Roma-Bari 2011.
- J. Rawls, *Giustizia come equità. Una riformulazione*, Feltrinelli, Milano 2002.
- A. Smith, *Teoria dei sentimenti morali*, BUR, Milano 2001.

Programme and references for non-attending students

Same as for the attending students

Assessment methods

ATTENDING STUDENTS and ____

In this case, the oral exam amounts to a set of questions about the course's topics and related references.

Office hours

Student reception will be held exclusively online on Wednesdays from 12.30 to 13.30 by appointment by e-mail, writing to: didier.contadini@unimib.it

Programme validity

two years

Course tutors and assistants
