



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Political Philosophy (blended)

2122-2-E3901N051

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#### Learning objectives

The profession in social work is often conceived as a "practical" activity, mainly linked to experiential knowledge and connected to the application of norms for the implementation of public policies.

On the contrary, this profession cannot be fully understood and practiced without the knowledge of theoretical, analytical and reflective tools, capable of orienting deontological behaviors, decisions and choices, especially when the social worker has to deal with difficult cases in problematic contexts and in a short period of time.

On the basis of these assumptions, the course therefore aims to analyze fundamental concepts of political and social philosophy, which are valuable for the training of social workers.

Namely, the theoretical perspective of political and social philosophy is fundamental for those who intend to understand and apply deontological principles and respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially when they are denied, creating inequalities and discrimination. This is critical point for social workers who have been able to relate deontological principles to professional intervention practices.

Students should be able to relate theoretical knowledge to practical examples, i.e. apply concepts to empirical realities and vice versa.

The course will consist of in-person lectures and online (individual and group) exercises related to the topics covered.

#### Contents

The course aims to analyze fundamental concepts of political and social theory (such as the idea of citizenship, democracy, human rights) and forms of violation of these basic principles (such as social exclusion, political and domestic violence, marginalization, dehumanization) that prevent the free development of human capabilities. In particular, the course aims to examine the idea of justice in its formal as well as pragmatic value, as well as moral

sentiments and emotions, which can be both positive (such as care) and negative (such as anger), especially in light of the effects of the pandemic crisis.

## **Detailed program**

The extended program of the course will be presented during the first lecture of the course and published on line.

## **Prerequisites**

Basic knowledge of political theory and the functioning of democratic institutions.

Learning attitudes and engagement in working groups.

## **Teaching methods**

The course will last 56 hours.

40 hours will consist of lectures, while 16 will be online with individual exercises and group work, thanks to the employment of a tutor.

Students who will enroll and actively participate in the exercises organized by the tutor will be considered attending students.

## **Assessment methods**

One and a half hour written examination with questions on the three books mentioned in the bibliography.

The evaluation of the exam will be 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

## **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

Bibliography

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- Martha C. Nussbaum, *Rabbia e perdono. La generosità come giustizia*, Bologna, il Mulino 2017.

- Michael Sandel, *Giustizia. Il nostro bene comune*, Milano, Feltrinelli, 2019.

Attending students who have attended tutorials will have the deduction of part of the books, mentioned above.

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