



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Political Philosophy (blended)

2223-2-E3901N051

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#### Learning objectives

The social worker's profession is often conceived as an essentially 'practical' activity, mainly linked to experiential knowledge and connected to the application of norms, aimed at implementing public policies. Viceversa, this profession cannot be fully conceivable and practicable without the contribution of theoretical, analytical, reflective and critical tools, capable of orienting deontological behaviour, normative decisions and professional choices, especially when the social worker has to deal with dilemmatic cases in problematic contexts and to be solved in a short period of time.

On the basis of these assumptions, the course aims to analyse fundamental concepts of political and social philosophy with important relevance for the training of social workers. The theoretical and normative perspective of political and social philosophy is indeed fundamental for future professionals who intend to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially when they are violated to the extent that they cause inequality, discrimination and marginality.

This approach is all the more crucial for social workers who must be able to relate deontological principles to professional intervention practices. Students should be able to link theoretical knowledge with practical examples, i.e. apply concepts to empirical realities and vice versa.

The course is in a blended format. That is, the course will consist of face-to-face lectures by the lecturer and online tutor-led (individual and group) exercises, where some of the topics covered will be explored.

#### Contents

The course intends to analyse some normative concepts of political and social theory (such as the idea of citizenship, democracy, justice, human rights) in relation to forms of violation of these basic principles (such as social exclusion, political and domestic violence, marginalisation, dehumanisation) that prevent the free development of human capacities.

In particular, the course aims to examine the idea of justice in its double valence, both formal and pragmatic, as well as moral sentiments and emotions, both positive (such as caring) and negative (such as anger), especially in the light of the effects that the pandemic emergency and the war crisis have on the population.

## Detailed program

The course will be divided into three parts, such that the main topics covered in the three books provided for the examination will be covered.

1. Democracy and Human Rights
2. Citizenship: Representation and Participation
3. Anger: how to deal with one's own, others' and others' anger

The full course programme will be presented during the first lecture of the course.

## Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of political theory and the functioning of democratic institutions.  
Willingness to learn, active participation and commitment to group work.

## Teaching methods

The course will last a total of 56 hours.

40 hours will consist of face-to-face lectures, while 16 will be online and will have a workshop character with individual exercises and group work, thanks to the use of a tutor.

Those who register and actively participate in the exercises organised by the tutor will be considered as attending students.

## Assessment methods

The examination will consist of a written exam lasting 1.30 h, with questions relating to the three books listed in the bibliography.

The assessment of the written test will be based on the following criteria

- Relevance of the answer.
- Clarity of exposition and logical consequentiality.
- Accuracy of terminology.
- Argumentative completeness and mastery of the texts.
- Degree of comprehension and reworking of the topics.

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## Textbooks and Reading Materials

- Stefano Rodotà, *The right to have rights*, Laterza, Rome-Bar, 2017.

- Giovanni Morol, *Citizenship*, Milan, Mondadori, 2020.
  - Martha C. Nussbaum, *Responsibility and Forgiveness. Generosity as Justice*, Bologna, il Mulino 2017.
- Attending students who have done the exercises regularly will have part of the books proposed below deducted.
- Non-attending students will have to bring all the books for the exam, as indicated here.

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

NO POVERTY | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

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