UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Thought Systems, History of Ideas

2223-1-F0101R010

Course title

The concept of "power" between Foucault and Deleuze

Topics and course structure

This class aims to examine and discuss Michel Foucault's conception of "power": From microphysics to biopolitics, from disciplinary power to power of control, and to "resistance points". We shall be guided by the quite extraordinary lectures that Gilles Deleuze devoted to this conception shortly after Foucault's death.

Objectives

Through this teaching, by means of an active attendance to lectures, we intend to promote:

- Knowledge and understanding of the models of self-understanding of the human being - understood both as a singularity and in relation to different social formations - developed within the Western philosophical tradition, with particular reference to the ontological, ethical, political, religious and cultural variables in general that structure the fields of experience and sediment in collective mentalities;
- Ability to put into relation different paradigms, grasping the recurring tension between historical and transcendental approaches;
- Ability to apply knowledge and models, contributing to the development of critical skills for interpreting cultural contexts, and to the autonomy of judgment with respect to the theoretical tools and research protocols deployed.

Methodologies

The course makes use of different methodologies: lectures; class discussions on materials such as texts (including those scheduled for the exam), slide presentations, audiovisual documents provided by the lecturer or independently proposed by students; participation of scholars presenting current research.

Online and offline teaching materials

Texts, PPP slides, videos.

Programme and references for attending students

Reading list:

G. Deleuze, *Il potere. Corso su Michel Foucault (1985-1986)*, Ombre Corte, Verona 2018;
(if not available: G. Deleuze, *Foucault*, Orthotes, Napoli 2018, chapters: "Un nuovo cartografo" and "Le strategie o il non-stratificato: il pensiero del fuori (potere)" only. Please note that this alternative text is shorter but more difficult.)

M. Foucault, *Sorvegliare e punire. Nascita della prigione*, Einaudi, Torino 1976: pp. 19-34 e Parte terza (Disciplina) e Parte quarta (Prigione) only.

M. Foucault, *Microfisica del potere*, Einaudi, Torino 1977 (pp. 3-28 only);

M. Foucault, *Afterword: The Subject and Power*, in H. Dreyfus e P. Rabinow, *Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics*, second edition, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago 1983, pp. 208-226. (Text available on the class website, section: "Materiali".)

M. Foucault, short texts on biopolitics (available on the class website, section: "Materiali");

G. Deleuze, *Poscritto sulle società di controllo*, in Id., *Pourparlers*, Quodlibet, Macerata 2019, pp. 234-241. (Text avilable on the class website, section: "Materiali".)

Programme and references for non-attending students

Same as attending students' reading list. Please note that further texts upoloaded in the section "Materiali" of the class' e-learning webpage which are not to be found among the references, are optional.

Assessment methods

The examination consists of an oral exam aimed at verifying the knowledge acquired through the critical study of the texts listed in the syllabus and the work done in class (the latter only for those attending). The acquisition of specific disciplinary language and the ability to draw appropriate connections between the course topics will also be

assessed.

Office hours

By appointment, writing to: giorgio.bertolotti@unimib.it

Programme validity

Programs are valid for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Dott. Giacomo Clemente

Sustainable Development Goals

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