UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Practical Philosophy

2223-1-F8501R009

Course title

Philosophy and Philosophical Practices: City, World, Cosmos

Topics and course structure

What is the relationship between life and thought according to ancient Greek philosophy? How are philosophy, action (praxis), and experience (in its both ordinary and properly spiritual dimensions) intertwined in this beginning? How are we to understand the human being as the fruit of an architectonic, formative process?

This course focuses on philosophy as a body of formative practices and philosophical-spiritual exercises. In the systematizations of the late ancient schools as well as the Platonic-Aristotelian and pre-Socratic reflection, philosophy understood in its essentially practical dimension casts light on the crucial problems of pedagogical processes and therapeutic relationships alike. This year we shall focus in particular on the relation between the human condition and the natural and cosmic environment.

Objectives

Developing: 1) reading and interpretive abilities; 2) capacity for autonomous articulation; 3) critical and dialectical skills; 4) self-awareness and formative abilities; 5) listening and dialogical ability in pedagogical/analytical context.

Methodologies

Lectures, discussion, seminars.

Online and offline teaching materials

Programme and references for attending students

Through the close reading of a text of absolute relevance in the ancient Greek tradition as well as today, the course addresses a few fundamental questions concerning human existence: the experience of finitude and suffering, the abyss of nonsense and measurelessness, the quest for justice and a sustainable world, the need to harmonize individual, collective, and cosmic life.

Bibliography:

Pierre Hadot, *What is Ancient Philosophy?* Belknap Press

Claudia Baracchi, *Aristotle's Ethics as First Philosophy*, Cambridge University Press

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

Programme and references for non-attending students

Same

Assessment methods

Oral exam.

Evaluation criteria: Clarity of exposition, Adequate knowledge of themes and reading assignments, Capacity for critical analysis and interpretation

Office hours

By appointment.

Programme validity

2 years.

Course tutors and assistants

Dr. Luca Grecchi

Dr. Elena Bartolini

Dr. Andrea I. Daddi

Dr. Alessandra Indelicato

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS