SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Filosofia della Politica

2324-1-E4001N086

Learning objectives

Introducing the basic issues of political philosophy and elaborating a case study on merit and meritocracy.

Primary aim of this class is not gaining some "skills" but philosophical knowledges and methods which are foundamental to understanding social phenomena. Obviously all the skills involved in this task are practiced, such as critical thinking, foundational analysis, ecc.

Contents

Part one: foundations of political philosophy.

Part two: merit and meritocracy.

Detailed program

Part one: foundations of political philosophy.

The birth of political philosophy in the Greek polis. The political philosophy of Plato. Aristotle's political philosophy. Political philosophy of Hellenism (with particular reference to Stoicism). The Christian world and the political philosophies of Augustine of Hippo and Thomas of Aquino. The Protestant Reform. Contractarianism: Hobbes, Locke, Spinoza, Rousseau, Kant. The French revolution and post-revolutionary liberalism: Constant, Mill, Tocqueville. Hegel and Marx. The current debate: Rawls, contemporary liberalism (Nozick), Communitarianism, the capacity approach (Sen), Michel Foucalt's philosophy of power, Jurgen Habermas' political philosophy, Feminism.

Part two: merit and meritocracy. ```

The second part applies the philosophical approach and the knowledges acquired to the issue of the so-called "meritocracy". Since in the public debate the "meritocratic" ideal is exalted almost without voices of dissent, the issue is very suitable for showing both the superficiality of this debate and the almost exclusive hegemony within it of "neoliberal" ideals (quotation marks are obligatory), and the intrinsic problematic nature of every political ideal. Through an analysis of the philosophical and sociological literature on the subject it will in fact be seen that the meritocratic ideal is mostly the object of sometimes radical criticism and in any case of cautious and circumstantial evaluations in the light of values ??such as social justice, freedom, etc.

Prerequisites

None

Teaching methods

Theorethical lessons. Discussion.

Assessment methods

All students: Written test. Oral test on demand for positive written test exclusively.

The test consistes in one long question (two sides) and one short question (one side long) concering part one, and one short question (one side) concerniong part two.

No intermediate test is scheduled but at the end of every lesson a final discussion and questions addressed by professor will have the function of a daily intermediate test.

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Textbooks and Reading Materials

Petrucciani S., *Modelli di Filosofia Politica*, Einaudi, 2003

Cingari S., *La meritocrazia*, Ediesse, 2020.

Young, M., *L'avvento della meritocrazia*, Edizioni di Comunità, 2014.

Sandel M., "La Tirannia del merito", Feltrinelli, 2021.

Barrotta P., "I demeriti del merito", Rubattino, 1999.

Sustainable Development Goals

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS