UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Citizenship: Conflicts, Rights, Gender

2324-2-F8802N011

Learning objectives

The course is intended to contribute to train students in sociological studies through an in-depth study of philosophical traditions and in particular of concepts fundamental to democratic societies and to debate in the public sphere, such as the idea of freedom, equality and solidarity in relation to "differences." Such normative concepts, with pragmatic significance, are crucial for those who intend to undertake qualitative and quantitative research, including field surveys.

Contents

The course will be in particular focussed on analyzing the ideas of freedom, equality and solidarity in the context of conceptions of justice, respect for differences, the formation of social movements and debates in the international public sphere, especially in relation to the rise of the Internet.

Detailed program

The course aims to provide students with fundamental conceptual tools for understanding societies in conflict otìr in change and towards a deeper interpretation of issues of global concern
The teaching will be structured according to three main parts:

1. General introduction: origin and application of the concepts of freedom, equality and solidarity in theories of justice, citizenship and difference/inequality.
2. Thematic focus: reconstruction of the debate on freedom, public sphere and lying in politics in relation to the rise of the internet and the establishment of populist movements.
3. Lab exercises: study on fake news, hate speech, denialism and conspiracy, as conveyed through social

media and particularly during the pandemic period.

Prerequisites

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

- Willingness to learn and work in groups.
- Interest in argumentation and participation in debate.

Teaching methods

Lectures; analysis of case studies; workshops; presentations by students; use of multimedia tools; possible seminars with Italian and foreign guests. Some lectures may also be given in English, based on students' interest.

Assessment methods

Foreign students may write the paper and conduct the oral examination in English or another language to be agreed upon.

The final grade (including the evaluation of the written paper and the oral presentation) will be based on the evaluation of the following factors:

- Argumentative skills in formulating and supporting written and oral arguments.
- Identification and relevance of the topic chosen for the written paper.
- Analytical ability in commenting on the chosen texts.
- Clarity in the formulation of arguments.
- Completeness of exposition within the limits of time and space available.
- Comprehensive bibliography.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Main reference texts for the lectures:

- Arendt H., Truth and Politics, Turin, Bollati Boringhieri, 2004
- Arendt H., The Origins of Totalitarianism, Turin, Einaudi, 2009
- Calloni M. (ed.), Pandemocracy. Knowledge, power and the public sphere
- In the pandemic age, Bologna, il Mulino, 2023.
- Derrida J., History of the lie, Rome, Castelvecchi, 2014.
- Habermas J., History and critique of public opinion, Rome-Bari, Laterza, 2025.
- Habermas J., New change in the public sphere and deliberative democracy, edited by M. Calloni, Milan, Cortina, 2023.

- Müller J.-W., What is populism, Milan, Università Bocconi Editore, 2017.
- Zuboff S.), Surveillance capitalism. The future of humanity in the age of new powers, Rome, LUISS U.P., 2020.
  For the draft of the thesis, students have to choose a specific topic, which should be agreedd in advance with the professor (according to information that will be published on the e-learning page), who will provide specigictexts for its development.
  Additional reference materials: During the course, the professor will provide additional materials in Italian and English.

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | ZERO HUNGER | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS