UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Theoretical Philosophy - M-Z

2324-1-E1901R016-MZ

Course title

Dynamics of Recognition

Topics and course structure

It has been said that "recognition is not just a courtesy we owe people, but ‘a vital human need’". After a short introduction to philosophy, the course will be devoted to this "vital human need", and more specifically to the dynamics of dependency and autonomy that characterise any human subject.

No prior knowledge of philosophy is requested.

Objectives

Knowledge and understanding

The first objective of this course in theoretical philosophy is to accustom students to a style of inquiry suited to critically analysing the categories of thought that explicitly or implicitly underpin discourses in the human sciences and the associated research practices and forms of intervention. Students will be led to recognize and problematize the interpretive approaches and conceptual distinctions underpinning understandings of the world in real-life contexts.

Application of knowledge and understanding*

The second objective of the course is to help students develop the capacity to reflect on the less obvious, and thus

even more crucial, assumptions underlying their actions (whether theoretical or practical) in typical educational situations and settings. The expected learning outcome is enhanced awareness of the horizons of meaning that come into play in diverse sociocultural contexts and the main cognitive and normative structures underpinning mutual expectations in educational settings, which in turn will inform educational action.

Transferable learning outcomes

The third objective of the course is to enhance students' capacity to revisit and organize their knowledge, using their own independent judgement, while attending to underlying concepts, the layers of semantic meaning implicit in key terms, the logical-formal structure of arguments, and different possible regimes of truth.

Methodologies

Introductory lectures and discussions on the course's key themes; guided analysis of the reading list; active learning sessions based on audio-visual materials and worksheets; guest lectures.

Online and offline teaching materials

Selected texts from the reading list, PP slides, audio-visual material.

Programme and references

Reading list for this course:

- A. Honneth, *Riconoscimento. Storia di un'idea europea*, tr. it. Feltrinelli, Milano 2019, from p. 11 to p. 96 and from p. 117 (last two lines) to p.166.
- A. Dal Lago, *Non-persone,* Feltrinelli, Milano 2004, ch. 6 only;

and a text of your choice from amongst:

- J. Benjamin, *Legami d'amore*, tr. it. Cortina, Milano 2015 (only from p. VII to p. 86);
- R. Brandom, *La struttura del desiderio e del riconoscimento: auto-coscienza e auto-costituzione*, in L. Ruggiu - I. Testa, *Lo spazio sociale della ragione*, Milano 2009, pp. 261-289 (read up to p. 276). (Available on the course elearnong page);
- J. Butler, C. Malabou, *Che tu sia il mio corpo*, tr. it. Mimesis, Milano 2017, pp. 23-61 and 95-99 only. (Pp. 103-120 contains the section of Hegel's *Phenomenology of Mind* commented on; its reading is suggested but it is not compulsory).

Assessment methods

Office hours

By appointment (email: giorgio.bertolotti@unimib.it).

Programme validity

Two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

GENDER EQUALITY