



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Politics, Rights and Society

2324-1-F8803N005

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#### Learning objectives

Starting from fundamental concepts in political and social philosophy, the course aims to provide students with theoretical and analytical tools, which can foster an understanding of issues related to human rights theory and their significance in contemporary public debate.

#### Contents

The course aims to address the relationship between politics, rights and society in relation to the idea of human rights and the different meanings and declinations they have acquired over time. In particular, the course intends to emphasize the significance that rights have in democratic systems, in countries in transition and in armed conflicts. Beginning with rights theory, the course is also interested in developing reflections upon issues of global concern, which are currently at the center of international public discourse, such as health, war, climate, and economic emergencies also in terms of security.

#### Detailed program

The course aims to provide in-depth knowledge for understanding the meaning of human rights.

In this regard, the course will be divided into two main parts.

A first part will concern the historical reconstruction of the birth and affirmation of human and citizenship rights, going to analyze the main declarations, conventions and charters, issued by supranational entities (such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the European Union) and nation-states (constitutions), with particular emphasis on the meaning that the ideas of freedom and security have in them.

A second part, will be devoted to exercises and reflections involving current events and case studies referring to the violation of human rights that conflict with international and constitutional norms. To this end, a variety of tools and

media will be used during the lectures/ laboratories, from reading essays, to articles in newspapers, to documentaries and online stories.

Visits to places of interest are also planned, starting with a visit to the Shoah Memorial in Milan.

## **Prerequisites**

- Basic knowledge of political theory and the functioning of democratic institutions.
- Interest in argumentation and participation in debate.
- Willingness to learn and work in groups.

## **Teaching methods**

Lectures; analysis of case studies; individual and subgroup work based on issues, which will emerge during the course; presentations by students; possible seminars with Italian and foreign guests; use of multimedia tools. Some lectures may also be given in English, based on students' interest.

## **Assessment methods**

Oral examination on the basis of a written paper.

For the draft of the paper, students have to choose a specific topic related to the issues considered during the course, agreed in advance with the professor, who will provide additional texts for its development of the paper. It has to be written according to the precise directions that will be posted on the e-learning page.

Foreign students may write the text and take 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:

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

## **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

Reference texts

N. Bobbio, *The age of rights*, Turin, Einaudi, 2014.

A. Cassese, *Human rights today*, Rome-Bari, Laterza, 2009.

L. Cedroni L., M. Calloni (2012) Contemporary political philosophy, Florence, Le Monnier.

G. Moro, Citizenship, Milan, Mondadori, 2020.

A handout will also be made available to the lecturer that will collect the texts of the major declarations, conventions, charters and constitutional texts, which will be covered during the course.

Further bibliographical indications will be provided during the course, based on the needs that emerge.

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

NO POVERTY | ZERO HUNGER | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

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