SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Trasformazioni della Democrazia: Diritti, Conflitti, Differenze

2425-1-F8802N055

Learning objectives

The course aims to contribute to the training of students in sociological disciplines by deepening their philosophical knowledge, in particular of concepts that are fundamental to democratic societies and to public debate, such as the idea of freedom, equality and solidarity in relation to 'difference'. These concepts, with their pragmatic value, are crucial for those wishing to carry out qualitative and quantitative research, including fieldwork.

Contents

The course will focus in particular on the analysis of the ideas of freedom, equality and solidarity in relation to notions of justice, respect for difference, the formation of social movements and the debate in the international public sphere, especially in relation to the rise of the Internet.

Detailed program

The teaching aims to provide students with basic conceptual tools for understanding societies in conflict and change and for a deeper interpretation of current events.
The teaching will be structured around three main parts:

- General introduction: origin and application of the concepts of freedom, equality and solidarity in theories of justice, citizenship and difference/inequality.
- Monographic in-depth study: reconstruction of the debate on freedom, the public sphere and lies in politics in relation to the rise of the Internet and the establishment of populist movements.
- Workshop exercises: study of fake news, hate speech, denial and conspiracy as conveyed through social media and particularly during the pandemic period.

Prerequisites

- Basic knowledge of political theory and the operation of democratic institutions.
- A willingness to learn and to work in groups.
- Interest in argumentation and participation in debates.
- Ability to write about a chosen topic.

Teaching methods

The course consists of 56 hours of teaching, of which approximately 50% will be didactic (lectures with the use of slides, audio and video) and 50% will be interactive (exercises, sub-group work, presentation of case studies from which individual and sub-group work can be developed, prepared and discussed during the course).
The course will therefore be conducted through 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 held in English, depending on the interest of the students.

Assessment methods

Learning assessment methods
Learning will be assessed by means of an oral examination based on a written paper.
To complete the paper, the student must choose a specific topic, agreed in advance with the teacher (who will provide additional texts for its development) and written according to the precise instructions published on the e-learning page.
Foreign students can write the text and do the oral examination in English or in another language to be agreed.
The final grade (including the assessment of the written paper and the oral presentation) will be based on the evaluation of the following factors

- Expressive and argumentative skills in formulating and supporting written and oral arguments.
- Identification and relevance of the topic chosen for the written assignment.
- Analytical skills in commenting on the chosen texts.
- Clarity of argument.
- Completeness of the presentation, given the time and space available.
- Exhaustive bibliography.
- The guidelines for writing the paper will be published on e-learning and should be followed carefully.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

• Arendt H., Verità e politica, Torino, Bollati Boringhieri, 2004
• Arendt H., Le origini del totalitarismo, Torino, Einaudi, 2009
• Calloni M. (a cura di), Pandemocrazia. Conoscenza, potere e sfera pubblica nell'età pandemica, Bologna, il Mulino, 2023.
• Derrida J., Storia della menzogna, Roma, Castelvecchi, 2014.
• Habermas J., Storia e critica dell'opinione pubblica, Roma-Bari, Laterza, 2025.

• Habermas J., Nuovo mutamento della sfera pubblica e democrazia deliberativa, a cura di M. Calloni, Milano, Cortina, 2023.
• Müller J.-W., Cos'è il populismo, Milano, Università Bocconi Editore, 2017.
• Zuboff S.), Il capitalismo della sorveglianza. Il futuro dell'umanità nell'era dei nuovi poteri, Roma, LUISS U.P., 2020.

Sustainable Development Goals

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