



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Politics, Rights and Society

2425-1-F8803N005

Learning objectives

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

Contents

The Course intends to deal with the relationship between politics, rights and society, analysing the conception of human rights in the different meanings and declinations acquired over time, underlining the meaning that rights have in democratic systems, in countries in transition and in armed conflicts. Starting from the theory of rights, the course is also interested in developing reflections on issues of global interest, currently at the centre of international public discourse, such as health, war, climate and economic emergencies, also in terms of prevention and security.

Detailed program

The course aims to provide in-depth knowledge for understanding the meaning of human rights from the perspective of political and social theory.

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

- A first part will deal with the historical reconstruction concerning the birth and affirmation of human rights and the idea of citizenship, analysing the main declarations, conventions and constitutional charters, promoted by supranational entities (such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the European Union) and by national states, with particular emphasis on the meaning of the concepts of freedom, equality, solidarity and security in them.

- A second part will be devoted to exercises and reflections on topical and news cases relating to the violation of human rights that contravene international and constitutional norms. To this end, different tools and media will be used, from reading essays, to newspaper articles, 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

The course consists of 56 hours, of which approximately 50% with didactic delivery (lectures with the use of slides, audio and video) and 50% with interactive teaching (exercises, subgroup work, presentation of case studies from which to develop individual and subgroup work, prepared and discussed during the course).

In particular, the course will be conducted by means of lectures; analysis of case studies; individual and sub-group work on the basis of themes that emerge during the course; presentations by students; possible seminars with Italian and foreign guests; use of multimedia tools. Some lectures may also be held in English, based on the students' interest.

Assessment methods

Oral examination on the basis of a written paper.

To compile the paper, the student must choose a specific topic, agreed in advance with the lecturer (who will provide further texts for its development) and written according to the precise indications that will be published on the e-learning page.

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

The final grade (including the assessment 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 to comment on the chosen texts.
 - Clarity in the formulation of the arguments.
 - Completeness of exposition within the limits of time and space available.
 - Exhaustive bibliography.
 - Argumentative skills in formulating and supporting written and oral arguments.
- Guidelines for the writing of the thesis will be published on E-learning and should be carefully followed.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

N. Bobbio, *The Age of Rights*, Turin, Einaudi, 2014.

A. Cassese, I diritti umani oggi, Roma-Bari, Laterza, 2009.
L. Cedroni L., M. Calloni, Filosofia politica contemporanea, Florence, Le Monnier, 2012.
A. Facchi e O. Giolo, Una storia dei diritti delle donne, Bologna, il Mulino, 2023.
S. Petrucciani, Politics. A philosophical introduction, Turin, Einaudi, 2020.
G. Moro, Cittadinanza, Milan, Mondadori, 2020.

- Materials related to the individual lectures and the texts of the major declarations, conventions and constitutional charters analysed during the course will also be published on E-learning.
Further bibliographic 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 | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
