UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Politiche Sociali II

2526-2-F8501R008

Course title

Social policies II

Topics and course structure

The Social Policies II course aims to study the welfare state as a form of political compromise between capital and labour that emerged in European industrial democracies during the Glorious Thirty. The course will therefore examine the processes of construction and then destruction of “social property” as a form of compensation for inequalities in the distribution of private property in contemporary society.
The course programme will be structured as follows:

- The processes of economic globalisation and the transformation of state sovereignty will be described and analysed. The changed relationship between the state and the market will be the key to discussing the rise and fall of the welfare state.
- Once the structural framework in which states operate in an era of economic globalisation has been defined, the analysis will focus on the Italian context, highlighting and discussing the characteristics, critical issues and challenges facing welfare in our country.
- The implications of the weakening of social protection systems for citizens will then be discussed with reference to the various areas of social policy intervention.

Objectives

The main objective of the course is to deepen the study of social policies by observing, more generally, the processes of economic and social transformation that are reshaping the framework of politics and public policies.

To this end, the links between globalisation and the financialisation of the economy, the crisis of the European social model, and the weakening of social and citizenship rights will be studied and put into perspective.

The course aims to develop the following skills in particular:

1. knowledge and understanding: developing an understanding, in terms of social theory, of the welfare state by historicising it and placing it in dialectical connection with the transformations in the modes of production and accumulation of wealth
2. applied knowledge and understanding: apply the theoretical knowledge and skills learned to analyse the concrete dynamics of de-commodification and re-commodification of social services in the context of the contractualisation of social policies between the public and private sectors
3. independent judgement: starting from one's own pedagogical position, acquire and consolidate analytical and critical thinking skills, observing the functioning of the social services system
4. Communication skills: knowing and being able to use specialist disciplinary language in a relevant way and developing one's ability to analyse and critically rework content through classroom interaction and exercises
5. Learning skills: knowing how to place one's educational work within the institutional and organisational framework of service functioning; thinking about and planning possible change (if necessary) within structured organisational settings.

Methodologies

The course is in Italian. The training activities scheduled for the 56 hours are carried out in person.
Each lesson combines teaching (explanations and in-depth analysis) and interactive learning (dialogue, documentaries, group exercises, shared reflections), with an estimated overall distribution of approximately 60% teaching and 40% interactive learning.

Online and offline teaching materials

During the course, supplementary materials will be made available on the e-learning platform.

Programme and references

SARACENO CHIARA, Il welfare. Modelli e dilemmi della cittadinanza sociale, Bologna, Il Mulino, 2013 (o edizione successiva).
GALLINO LUCIANO, Il colpo di Stato di banche e governi: L'attacco alla democrazia in Europa, Torino, Einaudi, 2013. (capp.: 1,6,8).
CASTEL ROBERT, L'insicurezza sociale. Che significa essere protetti?, Torino, Einaudi, 2004/2011.
DE LEONARDIS OTA, In un diverso welfare. Sogni ed incubi, Milano, Feltrinelli, 1998.

Assessment methods

The exam is a final written test, in presence, consisting of three open questions to be answered in 2 hours. There are no intermediate tests.

The choice of a written test as the exam format is consistent with the objectives of the course, as it allows for a standardised assessment of not only knowledge but also learning skills in terms of independent reworking of the material studied, as well as communication skills in the form of structured writing.
The tests will be assessed with reference to formal correctness (spelling, grammar and syntax); lexical appropriateness; knowledge of the subject matter; consistency of answers with respect to the specific questions asked; and the quality of the arguments used to discuss the topics and issues.

Office hours

Students can meet with the professor by appointment, which can be arranged by writing to the following email address: raffaele.monteleone@unimib.it
Office: Building U6, fourth floor, room 4092 (adjunct professors).

Programme validity

The programmes are valid for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | GENDER EQUALITY | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | CLIMATE ACTION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS