UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Theoretical Philosophy

2526-1-E1902R008

Course title

Education and violence.

Topics and course structure

Why is the pedagogical gaze today drawn to the pervasive phenomenon of violence? The conjunction of the terms “education” and “violence” will be studied in two directions. On the one hand, what education can do in the face of violence - education in the face of the violent and education in the face of those who have suffered violence (difficult children, deviance, bullying); on the other hand, in what sense it is complicit in it (black pedagogy and educational violence).
How can we bring out the hidden side, both of the violence that acts subterraneously and of that which we act unconsciously?

Objectives

Knowledge and understanding

The first objective 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 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 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

Roughly all the training activities envisaged in the 56 hours are carried out in the classroom. Teaching with face-to-face hours and laboratory activities:

- 24 2-hour lectures delivered in face-to-face delivery mode
- 4 2-hour tutorials conducted in face-to-face interactive mode

Specifically, the course will therefore comprise: introductory lectures and discussions on the fundamental themes and guidelines of the theoretical pathway; guided analysis of the texts; days of active teaching with in-class exercises based on worksheets and audiovisual materials; moments of shared recapitulation on the basis of the outlines provided via power-point or with external interventions.

The course is delivered in Italian.

Online and offline teaching materials

Course books, PowerPoint presentations, worksheets and other documents for individual exercises and group work, audio-visual materials.

Programme and references

The course is divided into 4 parts:

1. After an introductory presentation of the different meanings of the concept of violence, the teaching starts with an analysis of the dimensions of violence in the educational context. In this first phase some interpretative lines of the phenomenon of violence between phenomenological analysis, critical thinking and sociological reflections will be presented and discussed, with the support of the volume by P. Rebughini.
2. We will then proceed to the discussion of Freud's essay, Why War?, through which a reflection will be conducted on the historical and anthropological dimensions of violence between nature and culture.
3. The third point will consist of a comparative analysis - on the basis of H. Arendt's On Violence and M. Foucault's The Subject and Power - of the forms and modes of violence in the social and political sense and the conceptual distinctions with respect to other phenomena such as force and power. Special attention will be paid to the relationship between violence and language, with the reading of Excitable Speech by J.

Butler.
4. Through the reading of J.-P. Sartre's essay The Universe of Violence, we will proceed to the description of the form of violence and the figure of the violent as a specific mode of the relationship that belongs to the human universe.

Bibliography

1. P. Rebughini, *La violenza*, Carocci, Roma 2004.
2. S. Freud e A. Einstein (1932), *Perché la guerra*, Bollati Boringhieri, Torino 2024.
3. H. Arendt, *Sulla violenza* (1969) Guanda, Parma, 2017.
4. M. Foucault, *IL soggetto e il potere*, Istituto italiano per gli studi filosofici Press, Napoli, 2024.
5. J. Butler, *Parole che provocano*, Cortina, Milano 2010.
6. J.-P. Sartre, *L'universo della violenza* (1947-48), Edizioni Associate, Roma 1997, or its equivalent J.-P. Sartre, *Quaderni per una morale*, Mimesis, Milano 2019, pp. 253-307, 529-539.

OPTIONAL TEXT:
as a support text for understanding the concepts discussed in the course, we recommend reading M. Vergani, *Dizionarietto di filosofia per educatori*, Scholè/Morcelliana, Brescia, 2024 (it is not compulsory to study it for the exam).

The bibliography is for everyone.

Assessment methods

Attending students.
Exam on the topics covered and examination texts. The choice of the oral interview as exam mode is consistent with the teaching objectives, as it allows, thanks to a dialogical communicative situation, to interact with the student in order to assess his or her ability to critically understand the course topics.
There are no in itinere tests.

Assessment will be based on:
a. Pertinence of answers,
b. appropriate use of terminology
c. coherence of argument,
d. ability to identify and problematize theoretical issues and open questions.

The evaluation will be given in thirtieths, based on the following rating scale:
Not sufficient: 0-17
Sufficient - More than sufficient: 18-23
Fair: 24-27
Good - Excellent: 28-30/30L

Non-attending students.
As above, except that the questions will evaluate the student's knowledge of the prescribed reading materials without reference to the additional analysis conducted in class

Office hours

Prof. Vergani receives at studio no. 4146 Tel. 4896 U6 Floor, IV (please send an e-mail to the lecturer in advance,

so that interviews can be arranged). Ordinary enquiries can also be requested by e-mail before or after class.

Programme validity

The current programme is valid for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Assistants: Dott. Claudio Belloni e Dott. Mattia Marexiano.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION