



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Practical Philosophy

2526-1-F8502R005

Course title

Philosophical practices: Philosophical Life, creativity, *ethos*

Topics and course structure

How can we cast light on the relationship between life and thought according to ancient Greek philosophy? How are philosophy, action (*praxis*), experience, and creativity intertwined in this inaugural epoch? How are we to understand the human being itself as the fruit of an architectonic, formative process?

This course focuses on philosophy as a body of formative practices and philosophical-spiritual exercises. In the systematizations of the late ancient schools as well as the Platonic-Aristotelian reflection, philosophy understood in its originally practical dimension casts light on the crucial problems of pedagogical processes and therapeutic relationships alike.

The course is taught in Italian.

Objectives

Developing: reading and interpretive abilities; capacity for autonomous articulation; critical and dialectical skills; self-awareness and formative abilities; listening and dialogical ability in pedagogical/analytical contexts.

The following outcomes are expected:

1. Capacity for understanding and elaboration of the fundamental concepts exposed in the course, such as

the relation between tragic condition and ethical reflection; the exploration and cultivation of human potentialities in their ethico-political relevance; the resources of spectatorship and the contemplative posture; human belonging in the non-human and its position in the cosmos, and concomitant ecological-environmental implications.

2. Knowledge and applicative abilities; students will be able to apply the acquired competences and abilities in pedagogical and counseling contexts, connecting theory and practice. They will likewise be able to lay out and assess settings and experiences pertaining to pedagogical projects.
3. Evaluative autonomy, awareness of the ethico-socio-political implications of one's self-enactment (of the unity of action and thought) in the formative and pedagogical context, and appreciation of its transformative potential.
4. Development of communicative abilities, clarity in articulation and in showing the concrete correlates of the philosophical posture.
5. Capacity for re-elaborating the learned materials and re-organizing knowledge based on contextual specificities.

Methodologies

The lectures will be held in Italian. The course consists of 19 lectures (total: 56 hours).

Lectures and discussion (both plenary and in small groups) in equal measure. The course will include corporeal practices as well as the fruition of works of art (movies, music, poetry, etc.).

During the semester we will also welcome the philosophical contribution from outside guests. A few lectures (2 or 3) will be recorded and posted on the page of the course.

Online and offline teaching materials

During the semester, materials in various formats will be posted on the homepage of this course, regarding themes addressed in the lectures.

The course is taught by **Claudia Baracchi**. Frontal lecture segments will be interwoven with moments of seminar discussion and practice (exercises borrowed from ancient traditions, tested in a contemporary key).

The lecturer will provide materials to support non-traditional students in studying and preparing for the exam: short recordings (presentation of the syllabus, of the exam bibliography, of the organisation of the appeal; indications on the oral interview; recapitulations of aspects, salient concepts dealt with in class); video materials available on the web (interviews with authors, conferences, documentaries...) and websites. The lecturer will be available (on request) to organise a distance meeting at the end of the course to recapitulate the topics covered, reiterate some indications for preparing for the exam, answer questions or doubts from students.

During the semester, materials in various formats on topics covered in the classroom will be uploaded to the course e-learning site.

IN-DEPTH STUDY:

The following texts may be usefully consulted, on an entirely optional basis, to broaden knowledge of the course topics:

P. Hadot, *Plotinus, or the Simplicity of the Gaze*(Einaudi)

P. Hadot, *Philosophy as a way of life*(Einaudi)

Plato, *Symposium*

J. Sallis, *Being and Logos*(Indiana University Press)

Simone Weil, *Greek Revelation*(Adelphi)

Programme and references

This year the course will focus on the nexus between philosophical life and embodiment (meditation and sensibility, thinking and animality) and will address the intertwined themes of the origin of philosophy, the exploration of human potentiality, and the reflection on being in the world.

Although this course will be held in Italian, for Erasmus students the course materials will also be available in English or French. Erasmus students will then be able to take the exam in English or French if they wish to do so.

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

Aristotle, *Poetics*

Claudia Baracchi, *Aristotle's Ethics as First Philosophy*, Cambridge UP

Claudia Baracchi, *Friendship: The Future of an Ancient Gift*, Indiana UP

Assessment methods

- Oral exam, in Italian, or English, or French
- Evaluation criteria: Clarity of exposition, Adequate knowledge of themes and reading assignments, Capacity for critical analysis and interpretation
- No mid-term exam
- The exam will include a reading exercise, a thematic exposition, and critical assessment of a theme addressed

Please note again: Although this course will be held in Italian, for Erasmus students the course materials will also be available in English or French. Erasmus students will then be able to take the exam in English or French if they wish to do so.

Office hours

By appointment.

Programme validity

2 years.

Course tutors and assistants

Dr. Roberto Bartoccioni

Dr. Elena Bartolini

Dr. Andrea I. Daddi

Dr. Laura Rosella Schluderer

Dr. Alice Venditti

Dr. Giulia Zaccaro

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
