UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

European Legal Rhetorical Studies and History

2627-4-A5810281

Learning objectives

The course aims to enhance legal rhetorical culture as a European foundation; to make students aware of the importance of rhetoric as a tool for managing differences and conflicts and defending against verbal manipulations; to make them familiar with the history and role of discourse and speech in the social construction of justice; to disseminate and communicate the value of rhetoric as a European cultural and democratic foundation.
https://youtu.be/3MZb3LLxjDU

The course aspires to deliver the following learning outcomes in terms of skills and competences (Dublin descriptors):

Knowledge and understanding
Knowledge and understanding of the theoretical basis of classical rhetoric and the techniques for constructing a judicial persuasive discourse; capability to elaborate and/or apply classical techniques to new content and original text structures.

Applying knowledge and understanding
Application of knowledge acquired during the course, through exercises in constructing legal discourse (declamations). Development of the ability to construct judicial discourse and proficiency in the construction of persuasive texts in relation to new or unfamiliar legal topics, possibly set in broad (or interdisciplinary) contexts

Making judgements
Ability in analysing discourses produced by others and recognising the persuasive techniques being used. Ability to combine knowledge and deal with complexity, and to make judgements on the basis of limited or incomplete information, including reflection on the social and ethical responsibilities associated with the application of their knowledge and judgements.

Communication skills
Ability to communicate clearly and unambiguously, to specialist and non-specialist interlocutors, their own ideas and considerations, as well as the theoretical basis of reasoning.

Learning skills
Development of learning ability. Aptitude for practising textual construction (persuasive speeches in the judicial field) in a self-directed or autonomous manner.

Contents

The course (a) focuses on the role of verbal expression and the science (rhetoric) that studies its conditions of effectiveness in European legal education from both historical and current perspectives; (b) introduces the fundamentals of classical rhetoric and shows how and why they are a common European heritage; (c) emphasises the ethical foundation of classical rhetoric (conflict management through discussion) and its importance as a tool for building justice and democracy in Europe.

Detailed program

The course lecturers will convey the basics of classical rhetoric. In addition, they will connect the technical information (ars rhetorica) with the value-based assumptions of discursive conflict management (philosophy of rhetoric and argumentation), highlighting the unity of these assumptions with the common tradition of the Member States (history of rhetoric in Europe) and with the European present (education for European citizenship). They will also train openness to non-western legal rhetorics (Comparative Rhetoric).

Prerequisites

None

Teaching methods

- 21 lessons of 2 hours conducted as lectures in the initial part (DE) and as interactive exercises in the subsequent part (DI). All activities are delivered in presence.

Assessment methods

Final oral examination (interview), to check the preparation on the topics covered in class and to test the skills acquired.

The oral exam is an interview on the topics discussed in class and indicated in the recommended study materials. Particular emphasis will be placed on the students' illustration and explanation of declamatory exercises that they have analysed in class and those that they themselves have produced.
The examination is aimed at testing the ability to understand and explain in a clear and personal manner the fundamental topics and issues of the discipline. The assessment criteria for the skills indicated are based on knowledge and understanding of the fundamental content of the discipline and the ability to apply the knowledge

acquired.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Materials provided by teachers

Sustainable Development Goals

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