UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Adult Education

2627-2-E1902R027

Course title

Educating and Caring: grappling with the drifts of Power and Control

Topics and course structure

The first part of the course will focus on key issues regarding the education of adults and the elderly, exploring the interplay between continuity and epistemological, methodological, and procedural ruptures. We will examine the nature of adult and elderly education today and its distinctive characteristics (*proprium*), as well as the identities of contemporary adults and older individuals.
The second part will delve into the intersection of education and care during adulthood and old age. We will analyze how educational and care practices—across various institutional settings and life situations—can manifest as mechanisms of control and power, fostering exclusion rather than the recognition of differences and inclusion. In doing so, we will draw upon the work of authors such as Foucault and Goffman. Focusing on the dimension of psychological and cultural control, we will also examine Good's analyses, particularly within the context of medical care.
Along these lines, we will consider the risk that social and cultural welfare policies may themselves become forms of social regulation, including from a gender perspective.

Objectives

Knowledge and understanding:An effort will be made to develop a greater awareness in students of the importance of always critically problematizing educational and care practices. These practices are often underlying unconscious dynamics of power and control, which in turn are conditioned by external political strategies.

Ability to relate distinct bodies of knowledge and models: the course aims to strengthen the ability to establish connections between the different perspectives through which the course topic will be explored.

*Knowledge and Ability to apply knowledg*e : the aim is to foster an approach that enables a constant, circular dialogue between theory and practice.

Autonomy of judgment: the variety of sources examined and classroom discussions are designed to strengthen students' capacity for independent judgment regarding the issues under consideration.

Communication skills: these will be fostered in various ways—through small-group work during the course, through the nature of lectures designed to prompt questions and the raising of issues

Learning skills: the aim is to enhance learning capabilities rooted in self-reflection and meta-reflection; consequently, developing a pedagogical, decentered, and critical perspective on the topics at hand will be central.

Methodologies

The course material is closely linked to the teaching methods employed, which prioritize student engagement and active participation; students will be encouraged to exchange views with one another and with the instructor. Consequently, the course will include small-group exercises and plenary discussions on key issues that arise.
These activities will alternate with lectures (which will nonetheless maintain a conversational style).
Reference will also be made to case studies, film clips, documentaries, etc.

The course will be taught in Italian.
Direct teaching hours (DE): 36
Interactive teaching hours (DI): 20

Online and offline teaching materials

Will be used movies and documentaries
Photographs taken during the course
Slides

Programme and references

Cf. PREVIOUS BIBLIOGRAPHY

Assessment methods

Exam Type: The exam will be oral. Students will present a project
Assessment criteria: In-depth knowledge and ability to make connections between the books. Well-structured and well-argued oral presentation.
No intermediate tests are scheduled.

Assessment criteria
Evaluation will be based on an accurate and in?depth knowledge of the assigned texts, as well as on the ability to develop critical connections between them.

Coherence of the examination format
The choice of the oral interview as the examination method is fully consistent with the learning objectives of the course. Through a dialogic communicative situation with the student, it allows for an effective assessment of their critical understanding of the course topics, their pedagogical analysis skills, and their ability to connect theory and practice.

Office hours

Office Hours will be held on line upon appointment with the professor (micaela.castiglioni@unimib.it)

Programme validity

The programs are valid for two years.

Course tutors and assistants

Dott.Tino Danesi
Dott.ssa Elena Mandorino
Dott.ssa AnnaMaria Nicolosi
Dott.ssa Chiara Portesine

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING