UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Filosofia Teoretica - A-L

2627-1-E1902R008-AL

Course title

Education, Guilt and Responsibility.

Topics and course structure

“Responsibility” is a word that may be inflated today. But what does it mean? When is an action responsible? And why should I feel responsible? Where does it begin and where does it end—what are its limits? How does it relate to the dimensions of power, knowledge, and will? How are responsibility and freedom connected? What paradoxical relationship exists between responsibility and irresponsibility? This course will explore these questions from a philosophical perspective, with a specific focus on their implications for educational action. The theme of responsibility will be developed along two intertwined lines: education for responsibility (from the educatee’s perspective) and educational responsibility (from the educator’s perspective). Finally, the course aims to foster an in-depth reflection on the relationship between education and ethics.

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.

Independence of Judgment.
The third objective is the development of critical judgment skills in highly complex situations

Communication Skills.
The fourth objective is to develop the ability to communicate effectively, based on knowledge and use of the specific language and vocabulary of philosophy, with attention to the conceptual dimension, the semantic stratification of key terms, the logical-formal structure of arguments, and the different regimes of truth.

Learning Skills
The fifth objective is to refine students' ability to process and organize knowledge.

Methodologies

Roughly all the training activities envisaged in the 56 hours are carried out in the classroom. 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, with an overall distribution estimated at approximately 80% lecture-based instruction and 20% interactive learning.

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

In order to focus educational practice on responsibility, we must take fault seriously. However, fault and responsibility are often confused. It is, however, necessary to distinguish between them and, at the same time, to understand the relationship between them.
This course will explore these questions from a philosophical perspective, with a specific focus on their implications for educational action.
"Responsibility" is a word that may be inflated today. But what does it mean? When is an action responsible? And why should I feel responsible? Where does it begin and where does it end—what are its limits? How does it relate to the dimensions of power, knowledge, and will? How are responsibility and freedom connected? What paradoxical relationship exists between responsibility and irresponsibility?
The theme of responsibility will be developed along two intertwined lines: education for responsibility (from the educatee's perspective) and educational responsibility (from the educator's perspective).
Finally, the course aims to foster an in-depth reflection on the relationship between education and ethics.

BIBLIOGRAFIA

P. Bertolini, Ragazzi difficili, Franco Angeli, Milano, 2024 (240 pagine)
K. Jaspers, La questione della colpa, Cortina, Milano, 1996 (140 pagine)
H. Arendt, Alcune questioni di filosofia morale, Einaudi, Torino, 2015 (100 pagine)
E. Levinas, “Volto ed etica”, in Totalità e infinito, Jaca Book, Milano, 1990 (solo le pagine 199-224).
M. Buber, Colpa e sensi di colpa, Apogeo, Milano, 2008 (solo le pagine 1-44).

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

Oral 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.
Sufficient - More than sufficient: 18-23
Fair: 24-27
Good - Excellent: 28-30/30L

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