UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

New Slavery and Gender Exploitation

2627-2-F8805N012

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding
The course aims to provide the analytical tools to understand new forms of slavery and gender exploitation within the framework of transformations in contemporary societies, in particular the socio-economic and cultural interdependencies on a global scale of the capitalist system.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding
Provide an overview of the main methods of analysing forms of slavery and gender exploitation.

Autonomy of judgement
Encourage critical reading on gender exploitation.

Communication skills
Refine both oral and written communication skills

Ability to learn
Encourage curiosity and openness towards the plurality of theoretical approaches to the analysis of gender exploitation.

Contents

The course addresses new forms of slavery and gender exploitation from an intersectional perspective aimed at illuminating the intertwining and intersections of class, gender and race in producing exclusion, deviance and social inequalities. The subjects involved in systems of slavery and gender exploitation and the power dynamics that govern these systems will be analysed. Particular attention will be paid to some contemporary forms of slavery and gender exploitation (migrant women's domestic work, sex trafficking, 'caporalato' within agricultural work).

Detailed program

The course will include a first part aimed at problematising the concepts of slavery and gender exploitation, which will also feed on an analysis of the historical continuities and discontinuities of the phenomena of slavery, exploitation, trafficking. The contemporary features of these phenomena will be examined (also through a numerical analysis and the relevant legislative framework) as well as the implications in terms of social security. In addition, the subjects involved in these phenomena (the so-called vulnerable subjects, such as women, migrants, children) - also from the point of view of the victimisation processes that affect them - and the power dynamics that regulate the systems of slavery and gender exploitation will be examined.
In the second part of the course, moving from an intersectional perspective, the focus will be on the specific analysis of some forms of contemporary slavery, such as the domestic work of migrant women, exploitation for sexual purposes (prostitution) and the system of 'caporalato' in the agricultural work of labourers.

Prerequisites

Basic sociological knowledge

Teaching methods

The course consists of 56 hours of which 50% will be delivered through face-to-face didactics (lectures with the use of slides, audio and video) and 50% through interactive didactics (seminars with scholars and experts to study specific topics in depth; presentation of case studies from which to develop individual and subgroup work, prepared and discussed during the course). The language of the course is Italian.

Assessment methods

Students (both attending and non-attending) will be assessed by means of a written test consisting of open questions on the course topics and the materials listed in the bibliography. The assessment criteria for the written test are:

1. knowledge of the topics covered by the questions
2. ownership of language - appropriate use of terms
3. accuracy in the logical exposition of the topics;
4. ability to construct connections between the various topics;
5. analytical ability in commenting on the chosen study texts.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

A handout of readings will be prepared by the lecturer

Sustainable Development Goals

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