**Ethics of Relationships in the Economy**

## Prof. Alessandra Gerolin

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to introduce students, through the practice of philosophical argumentation, to the theoretical fundamentals of the *ethics of relations* that critically assesses the way in which these are reconfigured on the basis of neo-liberal economic paradigms. The course dissociates itself from the “dogma” of absolute autonomy of economics from morality, and offers students hermeneutical tools to critically reflect on the *ideas of ​​work and development* and the shape they have taken on the basis of moral and socio-political paradigms in modern times. In this context, the course will also try to highlight how *economic choices* are already always *ethical choices*, deconstructing the idea that the only goal that public policy should have is economic growth. Thus, students will have the opportunity to understand the main philosophical horizons that underlie an *ethics of development* outlined according to the terms of the *capability approach,* and to acquire the conceptual tools and argumentative skills to intervene critically in a debate on these issues within the context of education.

At the end of the course, students will:

- know some fundamental philosophical issues and understand their contribution to the acquisition of adequate cultural competence in the field of education and formation;

- critically understand some paradigms of moral philosophy and their impact on the vision of human being and his/her interpersonal relationships in the economic field;

- to intervene critically in the debate on the ethics of relations in the economic field.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Firstly, the course will examine the meaning of development in its anthropological, moral, and socio-political dimension. Secondly, the course will focus on the theory of the *capability approach* outlined by A. Sen and M. Nussbaum, critically analysing the concepts of capacity and functioning. Finally, it will analyse the relationship between ethics and economics as it is configured in the practical philosophy of A. Sen, particularly focusing on the concepts of freedom and social responsibility within democracy.

***READING LIST***

A. Sen, *Lo sviluppo è libertà. Perché non c’è crescita senza democrazia,* Mondadori, Milano 2020, pp. 1-118; 155-168; 293-309;

M. C. Nussabum, *Creare capacità. Liberarsi dalla dittatura del Pil*, Il Mulino, Bologna 2014, pp. 11-70;

A. Pessina, *Barriere della mente e barriere del corpo. Annotazioni per un’etica della soggettività empirica*, in A. Pessina (edited by), *Paradoxa. Etica della condizione umana*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan 2010, pp. 199-243.

Material made available by the lecturer and uploaded to the Blackboard page.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures with multimedia tools, open discussions, and audio-visual workshops. During some lectures, scholars or specialists of the various topics covered will participate to illustrate the results of their research or present their professional experience through the use of interactive teaching.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exams at the end of the course. The exam will start with the topics that aroused the student's greatest interest and will then focus on some of the main topics addressed in class. Elements such as clarity of presentation, use of adequate subject-specific lexicon, ability to critically argue the issues addressed and personal re-elaboration of contents will be particularly appreciated.

Assessment:

30 cum laude: excellent, strong knowledge, excellent language skills, complete understanding of concepts and topics.

30: very good, complete and adequate knowledge, correct and well-articulated expression skills.

27-29: good, satisfactory knowledge, essentially correct expression skills.

24-26: fairly good knowledge, however not complete and not always correct.

21-23: generally good but superficial knowledge. Often inappropriate expression skills.

18-21: pass.

Less than 18: fail.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is introductory and, therefore, no prior philosophical knowledge is required.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.