# Moral Philosophy

## Prof. Alessandra Gerolin

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

The course aims to introduce students, through the practice of philosophical argumentation, to some fundamental aspects of moral philosophy. We will reflect on human agency within horizons of meaning that are essential for the identity of the individual; we will try to understand the relationship between freedom and responsibility, choices and desires, happiness and ultimate ends in human action; we will investigate about the nature of good (individual and social) also in light of the wounds generated by the pandemic. Finally, the course aims to lead students to acquire the conceptual and argumentative skills to question themselves and to intervene critically in the contemporary debate about the relationship between the individual within a multicultural horizon characterising many educational and training contexts.

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;

- know and develop the ability to critically understand the fundamental issues regarding the relationship between human vision and his/her actions in a multicultural society;

- critically intervene in the context of the cultural debate concerning ethical issues related to educational and formative work, through the use of specialised lexis

- formulate evaluations and interface with specialist and non-specialist interlocutors, developing a high degree of autonomy.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will start with a preliminary reflection on the nature and reasons of philosophical research. Subsequently, it will address - through a gradual process - the theme of freedom as a fundamental dimension of human action, focusing, in particular, on the relationship between free choice, desires and responsibilities, with particular attention to the educational context. We will also examine different paradigms of human action: after overcoming a vision of the subject acting as a mere ‘weigher’ of alternatives and desires, we will outline the vision of the subject as a ‘strong evaluator’, questioning the possibility of formulating a moral evaluation starting from the condition of ‘embodied’ and ‘dialogic’ agents who live in a plural and multicultural society. We will question the individual and the social goods understood as goods that can only be enjoyed starting from ‘us’, that is, a set of individuals characterised by an identity that cannot be broken down. We will also reflect on the category of *vulnus*, a term that refers to the concept of wound, by questioning the anthropological, ethical and socio-political challenges that people have had to face in times of pandemic.

***READING LIST***

A. Pessina (a cura di), *Vulnus. Persone nella pandemia*, Mimesis, Milano-Udine, 2022, pp. 1-152;

C. Taylor, *Etica e umanità*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2004, pp. 49-85; pp. 127-149; pp. 251-275;

S. Vanni Rovighi, *Elementi di Filosofia* (Vol. III *La natura e l’uomo*), La Scuola, Brescia, 2013, pp. 139-155; pp. 189-223; pp. 235-245.

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. In 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 expression 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***

Since the course is introductory, no prior philosophical knowledge is required.

Course attendance, although not mandatory, is strongly recommended. Erasmus students are invited to contact the teacher at the email address alessandra.gerolin@unicatt.it.

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.