# Theory of Person and Community

## Prof. Alessandra Gerolin

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

The course aims to offer students the essential features of a reflection dedicated to deepening the relationship between *person* and *community* through the practice of philosophical argumentation. Firstly, the course aims to outline the concept of person from an anthropological and moral point of view; secondly it intends to focus on the relationship between person and community in the context of contemporary democracies.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

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

- know the fundamental elements of a theory of the person and the community developed from an anthropological and ethical-political perspective;

- intervene critically in the context of the cultural debate, discussing the main paradigms inherent in the relationship between the visions of man, moral action and forms of political community through the use of a specific lexicon;

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

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will start from a reflection on the notion of person and the specificity of human action. Subsequently it will focus on the relationship between person and community in the context of the contemporary democratic experience: it will address the relationship between person and citizen, questioning the role of popular will within the political community. Students will also examine the apparent conflict between, on the one hand, the need to give life to a shared public identity and, on the other, the concern to safeguard “differences”, trying to overcome both a ‘blind’ political perspective towards diversity and an exclusivist deviation. Finally, the course will address the theme of solidarity as a regulatory horizon of relations between international communities.

***READING LIST***

A. Pessina, *“Venire al mondo”. Riflessione filosofica sull'uomo come figlio e come persona,* in Id. (edited by), *Il mio amore fragile. Storia di Francesco*, Mama Edizioni, Novara 2022, pp. 71-108;

C. Taylor, *La democrazia e i suoi dilemmi*, Diabasis, Parma 2014;

A. Gerolin, *Cittadinanza*, in «Dizionario di dottrina sociale della Chiesa. Le cose nuove del XXI secolo», (2021) 1, pp. 91-100 (<https://www.dizionariodottrinasociale.it/Voci/Cittadinanza.html>).

Any additional material will be made available by the lecturer and uploaded on the Blackboard page.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lessons with multimedia tools, open discussions, and audiovisual workshops. During lectures some scholars or specialists in the various topics covered will 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 interview will start from the topics that have aroused the student's greatest interest and will then focus on some of the main topics covered in class. Elements such as: presentation clarity, the use of an adequate subject-specific vocabulary, the ability to critically argue the topics addressed and the personal reworking of the contents will be particularly appreciated.

Assessment:

30 cum laude: excellent, solid knowledge, excellent presentation skills, complete understanding of concepts and topics.

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

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

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

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

18-21: sufficient.

Less than 18: insufficient.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is introductory and does not require any prior philosophical knowledge. Course attendance, although not mandatory, is strongly recommended. Erasmus students are asked to contact the teacher at the email address [alessandra.gerolin@unicatt.it](mailto: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.