Socio-Economic Processes of Contemporary Capitalism

Prof. Mauro Magatti

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

The course aims to provide students with an understanding of the nature of a complex historical and social phenomenon called ‘capitalism’ and it aims to examine the fundamental categories needed to interpret the present transformation. Intertwining socio-cultural, techno-economic, and political-institutional changes will be explored through an analysis and discussion of empirically observable events.

*Intended learning outcomes*

At the end of the course, students will be able to interpret and analyse, from a qualitative and quantitative point of view, the key social phenomena that characterise our society.

This will be possible thanks to the use of the theoretical and analytical categories created by contemporary social theory.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course explores the evolution of contemporary capitalism, starting from the concepts of strength and power and their modern transformations.

It is divided into three different parts.

The first one will introduce the concept of strength and its relation with subjective desire and institutional forms.

The second one will be focused on the critical issues and the transformation of the contemporary capitalist model causing the “supersociety”.

The final one will illustrate future grow prospects, starting from the concept of social generativity.

***READING LIST***

1. Part 1: M. Magatti, Verso l'infinito e oltre. Desiderio potere, potenza, Feltrinelli 2018.

2. Part 2: M . Magatti C.Giaccardi, *Supersocietà. Ha ancora senso scommettere sulla libertà?*, Il mulino Bologna 2022

3. Part 3: one of the readings available on the lecturer’s webpage.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures based on readings and students’ active discussion. Some lectures will feature input from specialists on different topics covered by the course.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The assessment will be carried out in accordance with the following criteria:

Written test based on the textbook *Oltre l’infinito* (week 4)

Written test based on the textbook Supersocietà (week 7)

Writing of a paper (length: between 20.000 and 25.000 characters) based on one of the topics explained during the period between lecture 5 and 10, starting from one of the optional textbooks. Further information will be made available on the lecturer’s webpage.

For non-attending students

Written exam, consisting in open-ended questions

Writing of a paper (length: between 20.000 and 25.000 characters), starting from one of the optional textbooks. Further information will be made available on the lecturer’s webpage.

The final mark will result from:

1 paper (40%, 0-12 points)

1 Written test (30%; 0-9, points)

2 written test (30% 0-9 points)

The assessment criteria will include the acquisition of the key concepts presented in class, and the ability to use them to analyse contemporary social phenomena.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

Students must have basic knowledge of the concepts of general sociology.

Course attendance, although not mandatory, is strongly recommended.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching and assessment will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at [http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG](http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG%2522%2520%255Ct%2520%2522_blank) or on the Faculty notice board.