**Philosophy of Human Practice**

## Prof. Alessandra Papa

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

This course aims to highlight the learning style of philosophical thinking, in terms of its singularity, to provide students with the basic notions of Philosophy of Human Practice, as well as introduce students to the understanding of the ethical meaning of interpersonal relations. At the same time, the course also aims to provide students with tools for critical reflection on the individual, and on the construction of their identity through their interpersonal relationships, in order to trigger moral reflection as an effective cultural antidote to manipulation and violence. As an introduction to Philosophy, the course will also be aimed at encouraging direct knowledge of the philosophical text and the acquisition of an adequate disciplinary vocabulary, through a guided and gradual study of the texts.

In consideration of the generally intended learning outcomes, at the end of the course students are expected to:

1. Know the fundamental elements of the Philosophy of Human Practice.
2. Understand, with a critical approach, the anthropological themes and the main paradigms concerning the relationship among human vision, moral action, and the forms of culture.
3. Understand and master the basic lexicon of philosophical reflection on issues such as independent judgment and the risks of uncritical obedience, the insurmountable nature of human rights and respect for the diversity of cultures.
4. Take a clear and reasoned position on ethical and anthropological issues that involve the topics covered in the course.
5. Converse and debate on ethical issues addressed in class by making explicit reference to the vocabulary and argumentative strategies of the philosophical tradition.
6. Read and understand complex philosophical texts dedicated to moral reflection.
7. Develop learning skills that enable students to continue their studies with a higher degree of autonomy.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is structured around the *theme of acting* as a source of authentic relationships and an opportunity for personal construction. Through the reading and commenting of some texts by Hannah Arendt - counted among the great classics of twentieth century philosophy - students will examine the fundamental human experiences linked to the strength and unpredictability of action such as: *thinking for oneself* and freely; disobedience as an antidote to blind and uncritical obedience; love for the world; promise and forgiveness. At the same time, the course will specifically address the issues of evil and violence, as an action which - in moral terms - still questions us on the political task of responsibility. The course will try to examine the pedagogical point of view of the Jewish-German philosophy: a look, that of Arendt, to the "formation" of independent thinking that remains, still today, surprisingly current. The Arendt’s theme of *natality* and *coming into the world*, which will be the fil rouge of the course, will also provide the opportunity to reflect on the theme of the identity and positioning of a *Who* born in the public space of the polis, but also on the contribution of Arendt's feminine genius to philosophy of the twentieth century.

***READING LIST***

H. Arendt, *La banalità del male. Eichmann a Gerusalemme*, trad. it., Feltrinelli, Milano 2019 (or any other edition, also in kindle format, provided that complete)

A. Papa, *Nati per incominciare. Vita e politica in Hannah Arendt*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2011 (excluded chapters second, third and eighth).

The teaching material used in class, uploaded on Blackboard during the course, is an integral part of the exam content.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures. Use of audio-visual tools. Three hours per week.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The course includes a final oral exam which assesses students’ knowledge of reading material and topics discussed during lectures. Specifically, the examination consists of an oral interview during which students will be required to demonstrate: an understanding of the key concepts of the writers presented during the course, while simultaneously navigating the basic issues and topics of discussion during classroom lectures.

In summary,

 – from a disciplinary point of view - with respect to the contents of the course and the texts used, the interview will be aimed at verifying:

– The students’ accurate knowledge of the fundamental contents of the discipline, learnt through the study of the textbooks in the reading list;

– The ability to critically rework the contents and identify logical links between the different themes/problems;

– Accuracy and effective presentation skills;

– Appropriate use of the philosophical lexicon and approach to advanced texts.

The final mark will take into account the accuracy and quality of the answers, as well as the communication skills shown by the student during the interview.

Assessment will also take into consideration accuracy of students’ answers, appropriate use of specific terminology, structure and consistency of students’ argumentation, students’ ability to identify connections and open questions.

Assessment will be expressed in thirtieths:

30 with honours: excellent, sound knowledge, excellent expressive skills, complete understanding of concepts and topics.

30: very good, complete knowledge, accurate and well-articulated expressive skills.

27-29: good, satisfactory knowledge, essentially accurate expressive skills.

24-26: quite good knowledge, but not complete and not always accurate.

21-23: generally good knowledge but superficial. Not always appropriate expression.

18-21: sufficient.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Given that the course is introductory, there are no prerequisites for attendance. However, intellectual interest and curiosity for philosophical reflection are expected. It is advisable, if necessary, to use a manual of history of philosophy to independently investigate the references to the authors treated in class.

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.