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: Further reading indicated in class and available on the lecturer’s website.

***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:

1. Written test on the textbook *Oltre l’infinito* and on the first part of the course (week 5);

2. Written final test on the textbook *Supersocietà* and on the second part of the course;

3. Writing of an analysis paper on three online videos among those indicated by the lecturer (max 15,000 characters);

4. Group work (4-6 people) with final podcast (3 minutes) and a presentation on the topics of the second part of the course.

The final mark will result from:

1. Written test with open-ended questions (30%; 0-9 points)

2. Written test with open-ended questions (30% 0-9 points)

3. Analysis paper on three online videos among those indicated by the lecturer (max 15.000 characters) (20% 0-6 points)

4. Group work (20% 0-6 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.

For non-attending students

1. Written exam with open-ended questions on the entire programme (80% 0-24punti)

2. Analysis paper on three online videos among those indicated on the lecturer’s website (max 15.000 characters) (20% 0-6 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 and of contemporary history.

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.