# Philosophy of intra-cultural dialogue

## Prof. Paolo Gomarasca

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

*Course Aim*:

The course aims to introduce students to the crisis of multiculturalism and the alternative proposal of an intercultural approach. The field of reference will be the philosophical reflection on management models of cultural differences and will pay attention to how these models are expressed in policies that influence the democratic structure of a plural society. The objective, more specifically, is twofold: (1) examine the theoretical and political reasons for the failure of the multicultural model, with particular reference to the debate between *liberals and communitarians;* (2) justify and test the intercultural model, in relation to the current international debate, especially based on UNESCO documents; (3) analyse and discuss some emblematic case studies that present good practices of possible interculturality.

*Intended learning outcomes:*

1. Knowledge and understanding

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

a) acquire a basic philosophical language and know the main theoretical positions of the debate on the dilemmas of plural society;

b) understand the reference literature and correctly use the basic concepts of the discipline;

c) identify, through case studies, key issues relevant from the standpoint of defence and promotion of an inclusive and cohesive model of society.

1. Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

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

a) establish and justify interdisciplinary connections between the philosophical models analysed during the course and the relevant political issues at international level today, in relation to the future of high-pluralism democracies;

b) formulate independent judgments on issues addressed in the course and acquire a critical method to assess strengths and weaknesses presented, both in relation to theoretical models of management of the differences, and in terms of the policies taken into consideration.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. The multiculturalism crisis and the backlash of multicultural policies.

2. The theoretical reformulation of the multicultural model.

3. Discussion of the concept of intra-culturality.

4. The philosphical-political category of the dialogue.

5. The construction of an intra-cultural model and testing its strength.

6. Introduction and discussion of case studies.

***READING LIST***

For full-time students:

J. Habermas-Ch. Taylor, *Multiculturalismo. Lotte per il riconoscimento*, a cura di L. Ceppa, Feltrinelli, Milano 2008

S. Benhabib, *I diritti degli altri. stranieri, residenti, cittadini,* italian translation by S. De Petris, Raffaello Cortina, Milano, 2006.

Further information regarding the reading list will be provided during the course

For non-attending students:

In addition to the texts listed above for attending students:

A. Rattansi, *Multiculturalism: A Very Short Introduction,* Oxford University Press, Oxford 2011.

UNESCO World Report 2009: Investing in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue: Executive Summary.

Council of europe ministers of foreign affairs, *White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue. Living Together As Equals in Dignity,* 118th Ministerial Session. Strasbourg, 7 May 2008.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures and discussion of case studies.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Assessment will be carried out through an oral exam consisting of: three questions regarding philospical and political models dealt with in the course (multiculturalism, intra-cultural dialogue), a question about one of the case studies analysed and discussed during lectures.

The final grade is represented by a mark out of thirty; the final evaluation concerns:

a) relevance of answers and logical coherence (40%);

b) usage of the specific language of the discipline and the ability to establish and justify argumentative links, relative to course topics and concepts (40%);

c) communication skills shown during the oral exam (20%).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

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.