# Theories and Institutions of Citizenship in the Modern and Contemporary Age

## Prof. Chiara Continisio

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

The general aim of the course is to offer students the opportunity to learn about the concept of citizenship as it is used today in history and in the human sciences, with particular reference to the profiles of inclusion and exclusion and of rights and duties.

More specifically, the course aims are:

– provide awareness of the historicity of the concepts of citizen and foreigner;

­– encourage the development of a critical sensitivity to the topic of rights and their protection, in its historical aspects and in those more linked to current affairs;

– develop an approach to the study of the discipline sensitive to causal links and long-term relationships between past and present and supported by a good use of disciplinary vocabulary.

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

– learn about the fundamental turning points in the history of citizenship also from an interdisciplinary perspective;

– understand the difference between citizenship rights and human rights, recognising the fundamental conceptual and historical points;

– develop applied understanding skills that allow them to carry out educational and training interventions also through awareness of the historical and cultural dynamics underlying the themes of inclusion and exclusion;

– communicate information relating to the history of citizenship using specialist vocabulary;

– demonstrate independent judgment by drawing information from reference texts and contemporary cultural debate.

***COURSE CONTENT***

After defining what is meant by citizenship, the course will focus on some particularly important moments in its history, including contemporaneity and the theme of democratic-constitutional citizenship. The historical and current commentary on some of the fundamental principles of the Italian Constitution will allow students us to grasp its essential core: in particular, the course will address issues relating to inviolability of rights, solidarity, equality, freedom and the condition of foreigners:

– Citizenship: definitions and fundamental concepts

– «The right to have rights»: the lesson by Hannah Arendt

– Brief journey through history: the subject of rights from the French Revolution to democratic-constitutional citizenship

– Constitutional democratic citizenship: universalism of rights and constitutional guarantees; solidarity

***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***

* Pietro Costa, *Cittadinanza*,Laterza, Bari 2013 and following, chapters 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12; [*Buy from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/costa-pietro/cittadinanza-9788842075875-174246.html)
* Pietro Costa, *Costituzione italiana. Art. 10*, Carocci, Rome 2018, chapters 1, 3, 4;  [*Buy from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/pietro-costa/costituzione-italiana-articolo-10-9788843088669-258643.html)
* Espérance Hakuzwimana Ripanti, *Tutta intera*, Turin, Einaudi, 2022.

Any further specific material made available to students on Blackboard or distributed in the classroom will constitute an integral part of the exam reading list.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lessons in the classroom. A part of the course (from 6 to 9 hours) will be dedicated to multidisciplinary insights on the topic of citizenship, which can also take place with the participation of experts. These occasions are intended to be authentic seminar insights on the topics covered by the programme and will use study and reflection materials from literature, fiction and contemporary debate. Students are invited to participate with independent and free interventions.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exams are held in oral form. Knowledge of the assigned reading list textbooks is required. The questions will aim to highlight the understanding of the models proposed and the authors addressed, as well as to encourage autonomous and critical reflection. The ability to rework and organise the contents in a clear presentation, the consistency of the answers with the questions as well as the appropriate use of specialist vocabulary will also be particularly appreciated.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no content-related prerequisites for attending the course.

Information on office hours available on the teacher's personal page at <http://docenti.unicatt.it/>.

1. The textbooks indicated in the reading list can be purchased from University bookstores; they can also be purchased at other retailers [↑](#footnote-ref-1)