

## COURSE OF STUDY *Social Work Sciences and Sociology - path Social Work Sciences L-39*

### ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025

#### ACADEMIC SUBJECT *Elements of Social Philosophy*

General information	
Year of the course	Third
Academic calendar (starting and ending date)	Second semester (From February to May 2025)
Credits (CFU/ETCS):	6
SSD	SPS/01 – Elements of Social Philosophy
Language	Italian
Mode of attendance	Optional, but highly recommended.

Professor/ Lecturer	
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Department and address	Department of Political Sciences – Corso Italia 23 - Bari
Virtual room	Microsoft Teams code: s7opxvm (on appointment)
Office Hours (and modalities: e.g., by appointment, on line, etc.)	Mondays from 10.30 to 12.30, Thursdays from 10.30 to 12.30 For more information consult the web page: <a href="https://www.uniba.it/it/docenti/scarcelli-ivan">https://www.uniba.it/it/docenti/scarcelli-ivan</a>

Work schedule			
Hours			
Total	Lectures	Hands-on (laboratory, workshops, working groups, seminars, field trips)	Out-of-class study hours/ Self-study hours
150	48		102
CFU/ETCS			
6	6		

<b>Learning Objectives</b>	At the end of the study of this course, like the other ones of the CoS, the student will possess interdisciplinary knowledge in addition to the basic and specific ones. In particular, he/she will have a solid historical-conceptual education concerning the development of political-social thought and social philosophy; he/she will be able to grasp the autonomy of the political sphere with respect to other social spheres (economic, ethical, legal). He/she will also know the concepts and theories concerning political phenomena, including those of an international nature, understood both in an empirical and normative sense, and will be able to interpret them in the light of the evolution of world politics. The main didactic tool used to pursue the educational objectives is the frontal lesson, also participated, possibly accompanied by exercises and mentoring activities in the classroom.
<b>Course prerequisites</b>	An important prerequisite is the knowledge of contemporary sociological theories; the possession of the fundamental notions of political philosophy also constitutes a good aid for the study of the subject.

<b>Teaching strategie</b>	Frontal teaching, integrated by participation, thus giving space to stimuli, suggestions, insights that may come from/may be requested by the students.
<b>Expected learning outcomes in terms of</b>	

<p><b>Knowledge and understanding on:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Through the study of this subject, the student will be able to understand the notions that constitute the foundation of society's self-understanding and the logics that influence its choices and which are then translated into policies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Applying knowledge and understanding on:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The student will be able to apply the empirical and theoretical knowledge learned to new political contexts and situations; he/she will acquire methodological and conceptual tools to interpret complex socio-political phenomena of a national and international nature, and carry out comparative analyses.</li> <li>○ The student will acquire conceptual tools that will allow him to evaluate the adequacy of public policies and political choices in the field of social intervention, the fight against discrimination, the resolution of conflicts related to recognition.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Soft skills</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Making informed judgments and choices</i> Through the subject in question, the student, confronted with the main contemporary theoretical analyses on the structure of society, can acquire the tools to formulate his/her own critical remarks regarding the way in which in our time the notions of freedom, power, competition, identity, etc., are used, and about the way in which they are reflected in public policies and in widespread debate. At the end of the course the student must be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understand critical thinking and its role in public debate, that is a specific object of observation and analysis of the subject in question;</li> <li>• make an important contribution, in terms of knowledge and dialogue skills and competent interaction both in the activity of social or administrative services, as well as in political organizations or in activities aimed at public information.</li> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i> Communication skills: Ability to direct the social and political analyses, in which the student participates, towards a critical and conscious study, which offers the possibility of clarifying and deconstructing the discursive dimension of common sense and of disguised prejudices, which the language of the mass media sometimes conveys and spreads. At the end of the course the student must be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• express the specific contents of the subject using the appropriate terminology and giving the correct meaning to the theoretical-political and philosophical-social concepts he/she uses, thus avoiding slavishly confirming the current meaning (often generic and imprecise, if not erroneous) which in everyday language is attributed to the same concepts;</li> <li>• show and master a critical attitude in debates.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Capacities to continue learning</i> At the end of the course the student must be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• subject the principles enunciated in public discourse to critical scrutiny;</li> <li>• interpret the choices of politics and its specific codes and languages;</li> <li>• constantly integrate his/her own knowledge base, thanks to the critical skills acquired.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Syllabus</b></p>	
<p><b>Content knowledge</b></p>	<p>The course analyzes some important definitions and reflections developed by contemporary social philosophy, starting from Marx's criticism of capitalism as a system of social relations. By virtue of the "critical thinking" that examines this system and its opaque</p>

	<p>points, some nodes emerge that constitute as many horizons for the development of social criticism, including the relationship between economy and ecology, the economic inequalities that mark the separation between highly industrialized areas and the rest of the world and therefore become long-lasting political inequalities, the exploitation of populations which generates various forms of colonialism, the struggles for recognition, the marginalization of minorities, the crisis of the State-nation and political democracy which – thanks to the ability of some forms of capitalism to exploit these crisis conditions – can exacerbate inequalities and conditions of marginality.</p> <p>As Nancy Fraser's book which is used as a reference text for the course suggests, the analysis of contemporary capitalism, which sometimes becomes an "improper substitute" for an absent or expropriated politics, is therefore an essential moment for understanding those conditions of suffering which are the specific object of investigation of social philosophy.</p>
<b>Texts and readings</b>	- Nancy Fraser, <i>Capitalismo cannibale</i> , Editori Laterza, Roma-Bari 2023.
<b>Notes, additional materials</b>	
<b>Repository</b>	

<b>Assessment</b>	
Assessment methods	The method to verify the expected learning outcomes is represented by the oral exam, which consists of a series of questions regarding the teaching program.
Assessment criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Knowledge and understanding</i></li> <li>• The student should be able to provide the correct definition of the categories of social philosophy analyzed during the course, and should be able to identify the characteristic elements of the theoretical approaches analyzed, showing that he/she is able to highlight what is particularly relevant in them. In order for this learning result to be considered sufficiently achieved, an exposition that literally traces the one proposed by the analyzed texts is not recommended.</li> <li>• <i>Applying knowledge and understanding</i></li> <li>• In referring to political issues drawn from the current debate, the student should be able to correctly connect them to the philosophical-social analysis developed in the course; consequently he/she should be able to highlight strengths and weaknesses that can be found in the solutions that the different political actors in the public debate propose. A sufficient level for this learning result is reached if the student demonstrates that he/she is able to interpret the current political debate, on the subject of social policies, in the light of the theoretical categories that he/she has learned.</li> <li>• <i>Autonomy of judgment</i></li> <li>• The student should be able to interpret political phenomena and the typical dynamics of decision-making processes and, making use of the knowledge acquired in the course, indicate in turn data, phenomena or elements that corroborate the results of certain theoretical approaches or which, conversely, contradict them. For this learning result, a sufficient level is reached if the student knows how to present his/her arguments with logical and discursive coherence.</li> <li>• <i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i></li> <li>• The student should express the contents and concepts that are typical of the subject, showing that he / she masters the language proper to it, identifying the essential elements of the theses analyzed in the course and then highlighting them clearly.</li> <li>• <i>Communication skills</i></li> </ul>

	<p>These are intended as minimum requirements, therefore a sufficient level of communication skills will be deemed to have been reached if the student will be able to meet them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Capacities to continue learning</i></li> </ul> <p>The student should be able to connect the theories learned in the course in a coherent and original way and seek further sources, also with reference to current events. Again, these are minimum requirements: if they are met, they reveal that the learning outcome has been achieved.</p>
Final exam and grading criteria	<p>The criteria followed for the assessment of learning outcomes, expressed in thirtieths, are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insufficient: 0-17 Lacking, incomplete and inadequate knowledge of the topics contained in the syllabus and low conceptualisation skills.</li> <li>- Pass: 18-20 Sufficient knowledge of the topics contained in the syllabus and sufficient skill in conceptualisation</li> <li>- Fair: 21-23 Fair knowledge of the topics contained in the syllabus; fair skill in argumentation and in making connections between the various topics covered; appropriate use of philosophical-political concepts.</li> <li>- Good: 24-26 Good knowledge of the topics contained in the syllabus; appropriate use of philosophical-political concepts and good critical skills.</li> <li>- Very good: 27-28 Better than good knowledge of all the topics contained in the syllabus; better than good ability to deepen and make connections between the different topics; appropriate use of philosophical-political concepts and aptitude for critical reasoning.</li> <li>- Excellent: 29-30 Excellent knowledge of all the topics contained in the syllabus; very good skills in deepening and making connections between the different topics; strong critical skills and excellent knowledge of philosophical-political concepts.</li> <li>- Excellent with honours: 30L Excellent knowledge of all topics in the syllabus; excellent skills in deepening and making connections between different topics; strong critical awareness and excellent understanding of philosophical-political concepts.</li> </ul>
<b>Further information</b>	