

Ethics and Political Philosophy Seminar

Code: 100289
ECTS Credits: 6

| Degree | Type | Year | Semester |
|--------------------|------|------|----------|
| 2500246 Philosophy | OT | 3 | 2 |
| 2500246 Philosophy | OT | 4 | 2 |

Contact

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Teaching groups languages

You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject. Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2023.

Teachers

Jesus Hernandez Reyes

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course

Objectives and Contextualisation

Michel Foucault and the question of neoliberalism

In this 2023-2024 academic year, the *Ethics and Political Philosophy Seminar* aims to analyze the relationship between the thought of Michel Foucault and neoliberalism, both from a historical and critical perspective. It is intended to examine the readings that Foucault made of classical liberalism and contemporary neoliberalism in his courses at the *Collège de France*, as well as the controversies that have raised their interpretations between various authors. It also seeks to explore the possibilities and limits of the Foucauldian genealogy of neoliberalism to understand and question the present.

Competences

- Philosophy
- Analysing and summarising the main arguments of fundamental texts of philosophy in its various disciplines.

- Recognising and interpreting topics and problems of philosophy in its various disciplines.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Thinking in a critical and independent manner on the basis of the specific topics, debates and problems of philosophy, both historically and conceptually.

Learning Outcomes

1. Accurately drawing up normative texts.
2. Carrying out a planning for the development of a subject-related work.
3. Correctly, accurately and clearly communicating the acquired philosophical knowledge in oral and written form.
4. Demonstrating a personal stance over a problem or controversy of philosophical nature, or a work of philosophical research.
5. Developing self-learning strategies.
6. Discriminating the features that define the writer's place in the context of a problem and reorganising them in a consistent diagram.
7. Distinguishing and outlining the fundamental content of a philosophical text.
8. Recognising, with a critical eye, philosophical referents of the past and present and assessing its importance.

Content

The Seminar will be divided into four parts:

Part 1: Foucault and classical liberalism. Foucault's analysis of liberalism as an art of governing will be addressed in his courses Security, territory, population, and the birth of biopolitics. The concept of governmentality and the relationship with political economy, biopolitics and security will be discussed. Foucault's main sources and references on classical liberalism will be reviewed, including Adam Smith, David Hume, and Benjamin Constant.

Part 2: Foucault and contemporary neoliberalism. Foucault's reading of neoliberalism as a new form of political rationality that is distinguished from classical liberalism by its emphasis on competition, the market and entrepreneurship will be studied. The criticisms that Foucault formulated of neoliberalism will be analysed from an ethical and aesthetic perspective. Attention will be paid to the differences and similarities between German ordoliberalism and the Chicago School, as well as Foucault's criticisms of the Social State and Marxism. Foucault's main sources and references on contemporary neoliberalism will be examined, including Friedrich Hayek, Ludwig von Mises, and Gary Becker.

Part 3: Foucault and neoliberalism: analysis of a controversy. The controversy that arose in the last decade about Foucault's supposed fascination or sympathy for neoliberalism will be reviewed, especially based on the interventions of Daniel Zamora and Michael C. Behrent. Its theses will be contrasted with the same Foucauldian writings and will be reconsidered from an approach to the historical, political, and intellectual context of France in the seventies. The contributions and problems of this controversy for the current debate on neoliberalism will be assessed.

Part 4: Foucault and Neoliberalism: Critical Perspectives. The possibilities and limits of the Foucauldian perspective will be explored to understand and question neoliberalism as a form of political, economic, and subjective rationality. Some critical proposals that are inspired by or dialogue with Foucault will be examined, such as those of Pierre Dardot and Christian Laval, Wendy Brown, Maurizio Lazzarato, and Judith Revel. We

will reflect on the role of resistance, subjectivation, democracy and human rights in the face of neoliberalism. The possibilities and limits of the Foucauldian genealogy of neoliberalism will be explored to understand and question the present.

Methodology

The classes consist of the presentation and discussion of texts on the subject. Interventions by the teacher and the participating students are planned.

The dynamics of the class make it necessary to read the texts that will be discussed in the classroom outside of class time.

15 minutes of a class will be reserved, within the calendar established by the center, for students to fill in surveys to evaluate the performance of the teaching staff and to evaluate the subject.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Activities

| Title | Hours | ECTS | Learning Outcomes |
|----------------------|-------|------|-------------------|
| Type: Directed | | | |
| Lectures | 15 | 0.6 | 5, 6, 7, 2, 8 |
| classes | 30 | 1.2 | 6, 8 |
| Type: Supervised | | | |
| tutorship | 15 | 0.6 | 3, 1, 5 |
| Type: Autonomous | | | |
| Readings and studies | 75 | 3 | 3, 1, 2 |

Assessment

This subject does not incorporate single assessment.

The assessment will be based on three activities: two partial exams, with a weighted value of each of them of 35%, and a group presentation in class, with a weighted value of 30%.

On carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform the students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.

The final mark is the weighted average of all the assessed activities.

Students will obtain a "Not assessed" course grade unless they have submitted more than 1/3 of the assessment items.

In the event of a student commits any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary

process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

Assessment Activities

| Title | Weighting | Hours | ECTS | Learning Outcomes |
|---------------------|-----------|-------|------|-------------------|
| 1st test | 35% | 1.5 | 0.06 | 3, 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 |
| 3ond test | 35% | 1.5 | 0.06 | 3, 1, 5, 6, 8 |
| Class participation | 30% | 12 | 0.48 | 4, 5, 7, 2 |

Bibliography

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Lazzarato, Maurizio. 2015. *Gobernar a través de la deuda. Tecnologías de poder del capitalismo neoliberal*. Madrid: Amorrortu.

Lemm, Vanessa (ed.). 2010. *Michel Foucault: neoliberalismo y biopolítica*. Santiago de Chile: Ed. universidad Diego Portales.

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Software

Not applicable.