



Ca' Foscari
University
of Venice

Department of Philosophy
and Cultural Heritage

POLITICS AND ETHICS AREA

The area includes two main branches:

Politico-philosophical

Since its founding moment, as testified by the Republic of Plato and the Politics of Aristotle, philosophy has found one of its fundamental areas of explanation in the investigation of political issues. The passage of time has not, in this respect, produced any notable changes: in spite of the new twentieth century disciplines (political science in first place) that focussed on the study of politics and its "laws", political philosophy has preserved its vitality and its ability to open new horizons. This is documented by the vast impact of a theory of justice based on new contractual premises (Rawls), the most recent and powerful theories of law and democracy (Habermas), and the setting up of new conceptual fields (the bio-politics of Foucault, Agamben, Esposito). Thematically, the teachings within the area develop reflection on the forms of individual and social freedom and on the structure of the political order (the nature of the democratic state, the foundation of rights, etc.). The analysis and study of the most important doctrinal traditions (modern and contemporary contractualism, liberal and democratic thought, new theories of justice and the development of critical theory),

complete the framework of the didactic and scientific commitment.

Ethico-philosophical branch

In this context we propose knowledge of the main categories of anthropological-moral reflection, reconstructing the fundamental moments in the history of their understanding and clarification in the context of Western philosophical thought, and of knowing how to interpret, using this categorical apparatus, the main issues on which practical philosophy is today challenged by the world of professional and culture issues (legal, social and educational). It also aims to illuminate some aspects of current debates on human nature, on the foundational possibilities of ethics and social ethics, opening up original perspectives on the link between philosophy and other knowledge (mathematics, biology, literature).

The teachings within this area have as their content freedom (also in relation to the categories of necessity, possibility and contingency); the analysis of human action; the concepts of good, of common good, and of moral law; of passion and virtue - but also the drama of evil, both in relation to the life of the individual person and in relation to civil cohabitation. Reference to the works of authors such as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine,

Thomas Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Hegel, Kierkegaard, Rosmini is essential

For further information

Paolo Pagani

pagani.p@unive.it

Giorgio Cesarale

giorgio.cesarale@unive.it

Teaching

Philosophical anthropology, bioethics, social ethics and bioethics, philosophy of history, moral philosophy, political philosophy, history of political doctrines (in activation).

Specialist seminars

Seminar on the Practical Philosophy

This is a research community of advanced level (teachers, grant holders, PhDs), which is also open to students. At the monthly meetings, both critical readings of classical texts and frontier themes are tackled (multiculturalism, spectacular living, public ethics, ethics of sexual difference, etc.). One or more teachers introduce the chosen topic; a closed debate follows, open to everyone present. (Coordinators Paolo Pagani – pagani.p@unive.it, Fabrizio Turoldo- fturoldo@unive.it)

Theological Seminar

Theological reflection has long constituted, since the origins of Greek thought, a characteristic feature of Western thought. Modernity seemed to have put an end to all theology, as well as to the historical subjects that represented its power, but the strength of the great secular theological ideas is still decisive for philosophical thought, even in its weak declensions. After centring in recent years on political theology and mysticism, the seminar now proposes exploration of the many declinations of the concept of “glory” and the tensions between its different theological representations. The seminary will close in September with a conference on glory (in collaboration with DSU). (Coordinator Isabella Adinolfi – isa@unive.it)

Seminary of Critical Theory

see area History of Philosophy