1. General Purpose of the course

The course will offer contents and methods to analyse the contemporary globalization process in its economic, political, cultural-symbolical aspects. It will focus on the link between the notion of justice in transnational contexts and recognition, in its different theoretical meanings. It will therefore deal with some new forms of subjectivity and identity, which characterise the contemporary multicultural context, which is analysed according to a multidimensional point of view.

Students will acquire an overview of the contemporary political philosophy debate, with special reference to a critical definition of the category of globalization and to the nexus between justice and recognition. These will provide the starting points for a new reading of the political-philosophical vocabulary of the modern age and for a re-definition of the main categories of political philosophy.

2. Requirements

Students must have a basic knowledge about the history of modern political philosophy, as well a wide awareness of the current political-philosophical debate, with special reference to the globalization process in its economic, political, and cultural-symbolical aspects.

3. Methodology

The course will be mainly based on interactive lectures and seminars. It is articulated in 12 classes of three hours each. Students are expected to read the scheduled materials time to time and before class. Critical comprehension of such materials and discussion will be encouraged. Teaching will employ slides, analysis and discussion of significant documents and researches with regards to the
contemporary debate about globalization, scales of justice in globalized world, interculturality, political imaginary, multiculturalism.

4. Assessment
Students having regularly attended the Course will be asked to prepare an individual presentation on an agreed subject. Non attending students will be assessed on a term-paper and through a colloquium at the end of the Course.

5. Modules
The course will be split into three modules devotes to the following issues:

a) Re-drafting modern Political Concepts and accommodation of diversity in the framework of a fair political order (8 classes; 24 hours).

b) 2. Multiculturalism, Old and New Challenges for Coexistence (2 classes; 6 hours).

c) 3. Issues and Chances for Transnational Justice: the Contribution by John Rawls (2 classes; 6 hours).

First Module (Prof.ssa Barbara Henry)

Redrafting modern Political Concepts and accommodation of diversity in the framework of a fair political order

Some key-categories of current political discourse will be analysed, reconstruct and reset in new constellations of cross-references: identity, otherness-diversity, liberalism, democracy, public sphere/privacy, gender studies, subjective rights-collective rights, community-society, culture, multiculturalism, intercultural learning. They must be critically taken into account as they still are milestones for the modern political discourse or the so called political vocabulary of the West; in so far they are inexhaustible sources of debate and struggle in and for the public opinions in the globalized -intercultural societies of our times. By investigating the genesis and development of the contemporary debate about globalization within the social sciences, the module will consider different definitions of identity, culture, and globalization within the social sciences, as well as the link and the gap between spatial, symbolical and institutional dimensions (local/global, particular/universal, borders/territory) and the multidimensionality of the political space at local/state/macrosector/global levels.

The first part of the module will clarify the category of “political and cultural identity”, which will be located within the globalization processes. The second part will analyse some of the several forms of difference regarding gender, new IT, and intercultural processes, from the perspective of the consequences of the cultural, ethnic and political crisis on the imaginary and material dimensions of the concept of “border”. The questioning of the exclusive link between specific territories, political membership, individual and collective rights, will be the leitmotiv of the module. In particular: the reframing of the scope and scales of justice on behalf of the institution of better liberal-democratic orders is seen as deeply interconnected to the issue of the political government of globalization; both issues will be considered within this wider and multi-level context. Some specific concepts (Glocal and Global Culture) will be used to challenge the binary and exclusive logic of homogeneity/heterogeneity integration/disintegration, order/conflict.
Key-words: Clarification of Concepts; Identities; Political Imaginary; Territories and Scales of Justice; Asymmetries and Inequalities; Accommodation of Diversity; Globalization; Global Culture; Glocalization.

**Bibliography (selected chapters and parts)**


Id. (2009), *Terror and Territory. The Spatial Extent of Sovereignty*, Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press;


N. Fraser (2008), *Scales of Justice, Reimagining Political Space in a Globalizing World*, Polity Press;


C. Geertz (1973), *The Interpretation of Cultures*, Basic Books, New York;


Id. (2010), *Hybrid categories to define asymmetries across borders*, [www.sifp.it](http://www.sifp.it).


M. Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*

**Compulsory Readings**

N. Fraser (2008), *Scales of Justice, Reimagining Political Space in a Globalizing World*, Polity Press (Selected Chapters)


Id. (2010), *Hybrid categories to define asymmetries across borders*, [www.sifp.it](http://www.sifp.it).

Outline

First Class

Assumptions and Objectives; methods and methodologies
Methodical clarification of political-philosophical concepts. Analysis of the consequentiality among assumptions and conclusions of the meanings of a concept, and of the most outstanding theories grounded on it. Comparison and contexted/local knowledge: basic presuppositions.

References (selected parts and chapters):

Second and Third Class

Main question: Why and How to rehabilitate some aspects of the concept ‘identity’ – numerical identity, qualitative identity, group identity - ?
By aiming at demonstrating how the concept in such an understanding is indispensable for tackling contemporary real political identities (in the plural), often conflicting with each other notwithstanding the different levels and scales of political effectiveness and of social and political justice. Or perhaps precisely because of the neglecting and hiding of this state of things.

In Details

Analysis of the meanings of the concept of identity
Group identity as ‘we’ identity.
Political and Cultural Symbols and their role in building political communities at different scales of relevance and effectiveness
Political Identity, Cultural Identity: Similarities and Differences

References:
N. Fraser, *Scales of Justice, Reimagining Political Space in a Globalizing World*
Forth Class

Definitions of ‘globalization’.

Global culture(s), Glocalization. Political Government of Global Processes - and Phenomena

Which Borders mean

Asymmetries and Inequalities across Borders.

Symbolical Gate-Keeper and political/cultural Imaginary Territories, Deterritorialisation, Identities

Each Headwords of the contemporary political Vocabulary/Carthography sketched above is aiming to detect some interlacements linking the symbolic with the material dimensions of human agency as those interconnections are actively and painfully reconfiguring regions, identities and cultures throughout the globe, but with diversified effects. Nowadays we all (scholars and citizens) are looking for a fitting explanatory paradigm.

References:


Id. (2009), *Terror and Territory. The Spatial Extent of Sovereignty*, Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press.


Fifth and Sixth Class

Spheres of Justice, Scales of Justice. A different Vocabulary or a Matter of Relevance?

Scales of Justice/Injustice: A cartographic approach to tackle social and political asymmetries

References:
N. Fraser (2008), *Scales of Justice, Reimagining Political Space in a Globalizing World*, Polity Press


Id. (2010), *Hybrid categories to define asymmetries across borders*, www.sifp.it.


**Seventh and Eight Class**

Domestic and Transnational Justice; an Oximore?

Political Imaginary and its role in domestic/transnational Politics

Analysis of Fraser’ volume, devoting special attention to Fraser’s initial theoretical assumptions and some of the final political-normative outputs.

**References**

N. Fraser (2008), *Scales of Justice, Reimagining Political Space in a Globalizing World*, Polity Press


Id. (2010), *Hybrid categories to define asymmetries across borders*, www.sifp.it.

**Second Module (Prof.ssa Anna Loretoni)**

**Multiculturalism, Old and New Challenges for Coexistence**

**Contents**

In order to cope with the new issues challenging the peaceful coexistence in liberal democratic societies, the module aims to analyze the concept of 'politics of identity' starting from the relevance of the groups within the modern societies. Focusing on the gender studies approach, the module will try to deep the relationship between justice and women, both at national and at supranational (European) level.

**Ninth Class:**

Individual and Groups Rights: beyond the Distributive Paradigm (I. M. Young)

Multiculturalism and Gender (S. M. Okin)

What is culture? Social Constructivism at work

**Tenth Class:**

Models of Public Space: Principles and Practice (S. Benhabib, B. Parrekk)

Pluralism and Diversity in the Supranational Space (M. Rosenfeld, J. Weiler)
Third Module (Dott. Alberto Pirni)

Issues and Chances for Transnational Justice: the Contribution by John Rawls

Contents
John Rawls is surely one of the leading philosophers of the contemporary debate on questions of ethics and public affairs, theory of justice and issues devoted to its application at a transnational level. The module will analyse the contributions by John Rawls related to the main topic of the course, through selected passages taken from his main works “A Theory of Justice” and “The Law of Peoples”.

Eleventh Class
Main concepts that will be discussed (from A Theory of Justice):
The Two Principles of Justice;
The Original Position and the Veil of Ignorance;
Tolerance and Common Interest;
Framework Institutions for Distributive Justice;
Well-ordered Society.

Twelfth Class
Main concepts that will be discussed (from The Law of Peoples):
Peoples Vs States?;
The Principles of the Law of Peoples;
Toleration of Non-liberal Peoples;
Extension to Decent Hierarchical Peoples;
Human Rights and Transnational Justice.