



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to investigate, starting from a precise conception of man, the relationship between human rights, freedom of expression and dignity. The central premise is that rights, freedom of expression and dignity depends on the assumed conception of man, and so also a formation of a society. The first part of the course will be an historical overview, focusing on the significant debate that took place during the Enlightenment between Kant, Mendelssohn and Jacobi. It will be seen that this debate is crucial, for from it emerges a conception of reason on which the free expression of man depends, and to which is attached the rights and dignity of the person. In the second part of the course we will focus on the relevance that human rights, freedom of expression and dignity have in society, and on how they are understood today.

We shall therefore discuss the topic of human rights with Martino Diez, Scientific Director of the Oasis International Foundation, and with the main representatives of the SWAP Association (Share With All People), the topic of freedom of expression with Marco Bardazzi, Managing Editor and Digital Editor of La Stampa, and the topic of human dignity with Alberto Piatti, President of the AVSI Foundation.

PREREQUISITES

None

METHOD OF TEACHING

Lectures

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Regular class attendance is required. All students are invited to actively take part in class debate and case discussions. All reading assignments must be completed on time.

Students will have to take two exams: one midterm and one final. The midterm exam will consist in a comment on a text, while the final exam will include the elaboration of a wide and critical essay.

CREDITS

3 US / 6 ECTS credits

GRADING

Attendance and class participation	20 % of final grade
Midterm test	40 % of final grade
Final written exam	40 % of final grade

COURSE READINGS AND MATERIALS

I. Kant, "Was heißt sich im Denken orientieren, in *Immanuel Kants Sämtliche Werke*, Herausgegeben von G. Hartenstein, Leipzig 1867 [Band IV, pp. 337-353]. English translation in I. Kant, *Religion and Rational Theology*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1996, pp. 1-18.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights - United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/>

M.A. Glendon, *Traditions in Turmoil*, Sapientia Press, Washington 2006.

The original texts -and translation- of Jacobi and Mendelssohn in comment to Kant will be provided in class.

Detailed syllabi will be submitted upon beginning of class or upon request
(send to international.advisor@unicatt.it)



The bibliography on the issue of human rights and therefore the dignity, as well as freedom of expression is very broad. Therefore, the references will be provided during the course.

Students will be given a detailed secondary literature about: History of human rights; Conceptual perspectives; Political situations of states.

And about: freedom of expression. Formation of the language of a people, Democracy. Birth of the press, until the rules of the Internet.

All the readings will be available in a course pack and the lecturer's slides will be available on Blackboard.

BIO OF INSTRUCTOR

Elisa Grimi, after completing a scientific high school with perfect marks (100/100), she graduated cum laude in philosophy from the Catholic University of Milan. Subsequently, she continued her studies in the same University, achieving a second level degree in "Logic and Philosophy of Science" cum laude. She received her Ph.D. and Doctor Europaeus (Ph.D. European Label) from the University of Genoa. During her studies she improved her research in several universities, Leopold-Franzens Universität Innsbruck, California State University East Bay, University of Oxford, University of Chicago. She was Teaching Assistant in Philosophy and Theology at the Catholic University in Milan and for 2013-2014 she was Researcher at Campostrini Foundation in Verona. On 30 May 2014 she received the Paolo Michele Erede Foundation First Prize for a work on Politics and Network. She is member of the Italian Society for Analytic Philosophy, Italian Society for Kantian Studies, Italian Association for Philosophy of Religion, The American Philosophical Association and Editor-In-Chief of the International Journal of philosophy "Philosophical News" (www.philosophicalnews.com). She is Project Manager of Philojotter.com. She is author of several essays and of these books: the first Italian monograph, *G.E.M. Anscombe. The Dragon Lady*, with some direct testimonies, Cantagalli, Siena 2014, R. Bague, *Contro l'umanismo e il cristianismo*, in print with Cantagalli, Siena 2014, *Tradition and Innovation. A Study*, in print with Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle Upon Tyne 2014.

E-MAIL ADDRESS

elisa.grimi@gmail.com