



UNIMORE

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA

Dipartimento di Educazione
e Scienze Umane

DIPARTIMENTO DI ECCELLENZA
2023-2027

Philosophical discussion practices and critical thinking

Prof. Hannes Kerber

Carl Friedrich von Siemens Stiftung (München) /
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München / Boston College

Prof. Carlo Altini

Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia

Elective course (4 CFU)

Target

- Graduate students (BA and MA), pre- and in-service educators and teachers, pedagogists
- PhD students

Description

The course aims to develop the critical understanding of the meaning of rational argumentation and of philosophical discussion, starting from the analysis of the history of the idea of “toleration” understood as a precondition for democracy and civil society.

Main contents

The course will be dedicated to the analysis of the philosophical discussions on the idea of “toleration” as the starting point to understand the necessary preconditions for public discussions and rational agreements in contemporary civil society. Indeed, the tolerance is an indispensable political virtue in liberal democracies. Without it, pluralistic societies like our own would be unable to deescalate internal conflicts across political, religious, cultural, and ethnic dividing lines. However, our strong belief in the need for the practice of tolerance is not matched by a corresponding theoretical certainty. Despite the widespread discussions of the idea since its emergence in the early modern period, tolerance has remained a notoriously elusive concept. In this course, we will trace various historical and intellectual paths that have led to our current understanding and practice of tolerance. Starting from Aristotle’s *Ethics*, the New Testament, and St. Augustine’s *City of God*, we will carefully study the arguments by the classic advocates for tolerance (such as Spinoza, Pierre Bayle, John Locke, and Voltaire) up to the contemporary age (Wendy Brown).

About Prof. Hannes Kerber:

<https://lmu-munich.academia.edu/HannesKerber>

Scheduled lessons:

Place: Ufficio dottorandi – Reggiane Parco Innovazione – Piazzale Europa 1, Reggio Emilia

Tuesday 19 March, h. 14-17,15

Tuesday 26 March, h. 14-17,15

Tuesday 23 April, h. 14-17,15

Tuesday 30 April, h. 14-17,15

Tuesday 7 May, h. 14-17,15

(Two other lessons – held only by prof. Altini – will be set to follow the scheduled dates)

Assessment: oral exam (in Italian). The attendance of the lessons is free.

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