Over the past thirty years, neoliberalism has become one of the most significant concepts in political theory. This course aims to provide an introduction to the socio-cultural formations that define notion of neoliberalism, investigating the genealogy of values that enforce utility, calculation and competition both on a subjective and on a macroeconomic scale. Dardot and Laval argue that "competitive capitalism is not a product of nature, it is a machine which requires constant surveillance and regulation". In fact, the naturalization of competition as the “normal” conduct in the global market is inseparable from the constant enforcement of disciplinary techniques meant to refine an apparatus of efficiency and quantitative evaluation. This course intends to shed light on the principles that define the notion of neoliberalism focusing particularly on the implications of neoliberal policies in the fields of education and labor demands.

Learning Goals

In terms of learning goals, this course will:
a. enable you to grasp advanced questions regarding the field of global studies, studies of governance and social policies.
b. It will help you organize and present your research in these fields.
c. It will help you chose the most reliable sources and critically analyze the strengths and weaknesses of social policies in the field of social governance and governmental studies.
d. It will help you communicate your work and your research in English on top of partaking in a global debate in these topics.
e. It will finally help you consolidate your competence in the field of social studies in an autonomous and self-organized manner.

Class Policies

Active participation is a key aspect for succeeding in this class.
The exam consists in a written exam. Eight open questions will be based on the required reading list. Students will have 90 minutes to answer. Students found cheating won't receive and exam grade and might immediately fail the course.

The required reading list includes the following book chapters and articles:

David Harvey, A brief history of neoliberalism, Oxford University Press (Chapters 1-4)
M. Friedman, Capitalism and Freedom, University of Chicago Press, 1982 (Chapters 6).
J. M. Keynes, Economic Possibilities for our grandchildren, pdf article
Mark Fisher, From K-Punk: Hauntology Nostalgia and Lost Futures; Fear and misery in Neoliberal Britain; Good for Nothing; We want it all.
The Institution, the Economy and the Market: Karl Polanyi and the origins of neoliberalism. (open access).

Tentative Schedule

2.7 Introduction and presentations.

2.14 The Institution, the Economy and the Market: Karl Polanyi and the origins of neoliberalism. (open access).

2.21 What do we mean by neoliberalism? David Harvey, ch. 1-2.

2.28 The neo-liberal state. David Harvey, ch. 3-4.

3.7 On Education, Readings: Milton Friedman, Capitalism and Freedom Chapter 6


3.21 On the history of Neoliberalism: Readings, Melinda Cooper 3-4

3.28 Neoliberalism and the family: Readings, Melinda Cooper 5-6

4.4 On precarity and labor, J. M. Keynes, Economic Possibilities for our grandchildren

4.11 Open seminars on Mark Fisher. Readings: Capitalist Realism.

4.18 Open seminars on Mark Fisher. Readings: From K-Punk: Hauntology Nostalgia and Lost Futures; Fear and misery in Neoliberal Britain; Good for Nothing; We want it all.

4.25 National Holidays --- no class

5.2 Day after National Holidays – Class Discussion

5.9 ROOM CHANGE: Thursday May 9th, 2-4 PM Aula B, Ca’ Bernardo, The Trump Administration and the monetary question

5.16 TIME CHANGE: Thursday May 16th, 4.30-7 PM Aula A, San Sebastiano, "African Student Movement's Struggle Against Structural Adjustment"

Make-up Classes for classes cancelled due to national holidays:

Prof. Sergio Rossi (Readings TBA)
Moneta e banche: le origini strutturali della crisi
Data: Lunedì 25 Marzo, ore 15.30-18.30
Aula B, Ca’ Bernardo

Prof. Sergio Rossi (Readings TBA)
Moneta intera e criptovalute: una analisi critica
Martedì 26 Marzo, ore 10-12
Aula B, Ca’ Bernardo

English

Prof. George Caffentzis (Readings TBA), Trilogy on Money volume 1 April 19, Time and Location TBA, Aula B, Ca’ Bernardo

Prof. George Caffentzis (Readings TBA), The Crisis of the Washington Consensus May 7th, 5-7 PM Aula B, Ca' Bernardo

Invitation:
NOTE:

*Most materials are provided in class
**Syllabus is subject to changes to better accommodate students and schedule

Insegnamento sostenibile
CFU sostenibili: 5
Dispense e materiali di approfondimento e di autovalutazione disponibili online; testi di riferimento in formato e-book
Piattaforme e-learning, moodle
Utilizzo strumenti open-source