COURSE SYLLABUS

Sociologia

1819-2-E2401P068

Learning area

INTERDISCIPLINARY COMPETENCES

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Concepts and theories of Sociology
- Interpretation of modern society given by the founding fathers of Sociology and a brief overview of some contemporary perspectives
- Structures and social change, with a particular focus on citizenship, power, stratification, and social mobility
- Role and function of socialization
- The social construction of the quotidian
- Technologies of everyday life, time-space distanciation, and the indirect relations: the mass knowledge society
Applying knowledge and understanding

- Ability to apply the sociological perspective in order to describe what happens in everyday life situations
- Ability to understand the ‘stock of knowledge’ used by people in their ordinary affairs
- Ability to understand some of the changes in which contemporary societies are involved

Contents

The lectures aim to investigate the taken-for-granted social life; they ‘deconstruct’ such reality in order to focus on some of the processes by which it is made up. The course is organized around four main topics: 1) The interpretation of modern society given by the founding fathers of sociology; 2) some of the most relevant sociological categories and research fields – from stratification to social mobility; 3) socialization; 4) the correlation between everyday life, daily experiences, the techno-scientific knowledge involved in objects currently used, and the development of the ‘mass knowledge society’.

Detailed program

- Introduction to sociological epistemology: positivism, realism, comprehension
- Modern society and Sociology
- Secularization, citizenship, power, and the problem of social order in modern societies
- Interpretation of modern society given by the founding fathers of Sociology (Functionalism, Durkheim, Marx, Weber)
- Brief overview of contemporary sociological theories: structural functionalism (Parsons, Merton), power and conflict (Dahrendorf), the sociology of everyday life (Goffman)
- Some themes and research fields: stratification, social inequalities, public policies, social mobility
- Socialization and biology
- Socialization and the common sense culture
- Socialization and the theories of personality (Behaviourism, Mead, Freud, Piaget)
- Agencies of socialization
- The life course as socially constructed
- The investigation of the taken for granted reality of social life
- The social ‘knowledge’ of ordinary life
- Body, time, space: three crucial variables of social life
- Action, ontological security and social practices
- Mass Knowledge Society, time-space distanciation, and the indirect relations

**Prerequisites**

No particular prerequisite if not a good basic knowledge of modern history.

**Teaching methods**

Lectures, text discussions, audio/video materials; if possible simple empirical research relating to daily life situations.

The teaching method and topics discussed focus on the development of synthesis skills, thus facilitating the practical application of the theoretical concepts.

Lectures and class discussions aim to show how science can be applied in studying everyday situations.

Students are expected to be able to make use of the various topics approached in order to describe and understand daily situations making use of their own independent judgement.

**Assessment methods**

1) **Attending students**: written (required), oral (optional).

For those who decide to attend, the course is divided in two modules. At the end of each of these, there is a written test: the content concerns both the topics presented during the lectures and those covered by the bibliography. The written questions can be both in terms of open questions and/or multiple choice questions. If this is the case, for every question there are more alternatives, but only one is the correct answer.

If students pass both the written tests, they may choose to verbalize the average vote of the two tests or to integrate it with the oral. The oral examination concerns the whole program.

2) **Non attending students**: written (required), oral (optional). The oral examination concerns the whole program.
Evaluation criteria for both written and oral examination

- Appropriate use of technical formal language – scientific formal skills
- Logical accuracy in the presentation of topics
- Ability to identify the connections between issues
- Completeness of the illustration of the topics given the limits of time and available pages (written)

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The bibliography is identical for both attending and non-attending students.


4. Ghisleni, M (2004), *Sociologia della quotidianità*, Carocci, Roma (del Cap. IV, solo par. 4.6 e 4.7; escluse le Osservazioni conclusive);

5. Ghisleni, M (2014), *Presenza, assenza e delocalizzazione: le interazioni indirette e la disaggregazione spazio-temporale*, in Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia, LV, n. 3, pp. 527-552 (the article can be downloaded from the electronic journals).