



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Politiche e Istituzioni nella Ricerca Sociale

1819-3-E4001N062-C

Learning objectives

Main objectives are:

- to provide students with theoretical and practical knowledge about institutions, with examples about social policies in order to develop a critical approach in investigating social phenomena;
- to know and to apply. concepts and analysis tools to specific case studies.

Contents

The lab is about the analysis of institutions and the institutionalization process, with a constant application of the addressed issues to practical cases in the field of policies and welfare systems. After some lessons aimed at providing a theoretical framework and practical tools for analysis, students will be invited to interact and confront themselves with the analysis of institutions and institutionalization processes.

Detailed program

Institutions have always been a main issue in sociological thinking as they are social artefacts. During the workshop we will recognize them, study them and understand why it is important to take care of them while developing critical tools to understand society. We will highlight their strength and weakness, the way they impact on social action, where they are and how they can be collectively deconstructed and reassembled.

Examples will come mainly from the field of policy making, which allows us to highlight how institutions work in practice (penal system, psychiatric deinstitutionalisation, local and national welfare policies and services).

The workshop is composed by theoretical classes that will be accompanied by guided analysis of materials (films,

newspaper articles, documents, etc..) in small groups. Students will have the chance to combine critical reflection and analysis of cases that highlight the concepts the analytical dimensions set out in the theoretical part.

The group exercises and the collective discussions will be oriented to the direct involvement of the participants and structured as to facilitate interaction. The active participation of the students, therefore, will be constantly encouraged and will be evaluated.

Prerequisites

None

Teaching methods

Lectures and practical classes

Assessment methods

Students' active participation will be evaluated throughout the workshop; moreover there will be a final test consisting in the presentation of a group project related to the analysis of an institution, in order to verify the use of the theoretical framework and of the provided tools.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

de Leonardis O., 2001, *Le Istituzioni. Come e perché parlarne*, Carocci, Roma.

de Leonardis O., 1998, *In un diverso welfare. Sogni e incubi*, Feltrinelli, Milano.

Bifulco L., 2015, *Il welfare locale. Processi e prospettive*, Carocci, Roma.

Other research material will be given during the lab.
