UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

# COURSE SYLLABUS

# Sociology of Education - M-Z

**1920-1-G8501R009-MZ**

## Course title

**Sociology of Education (M-Z)**

## Topics and course structure

Social reality is exposed to incessant changes. The course assumes the integration of a set of concepts and technical tools through which students can understand and interpret social reality changes. Sociology is the science that aims to analyse the taken-for-granted reality of social life and to show the processes by which social realty is changing.

The course aims to present the sociological approach to the study of socialization processes, focusing on the roles and functions of educational systems by a comparative perspective.

The lectures will focus on the following issues:

- Processes of socialization

- Cultural transmission

- Theories of education

- Comparison of educational systems

- Social Stratification, inequality and mobility

- Disparities in education by a gender perspective

- Problems of social cohesion and integration in intercultural society

- Generative mechanisms of dropping out

## Objectives

The learning aims of the course regard an area of basic knowledge and training activities in sociological theories and methodology. We consider the following goals as the most important:

- Achieve knowledge and understanding of the main sociological theoretical models related to the educational systems and processes, with particular attention to their socio-historical development in the context of the first and the second modernity, in polycentric perspective.

- Achieve knowledge and understanding of the main interpretations related to the definition of the social role of the teaching profession, in its social and historical perspective.

As for the aims related to the ability of the students to apply a specific knowledge and understanding in a professional context, the course devotes much attention to the formation of the following skills:

- Being able to use theoretical and practical knowledge related to the tools of observation techniques to understand the characteristics of the school environment, the subjects and their relationships, as well as dynamics of the learning process;

- Acquire ability of reflexive approach to their actions, identifying and analysing critically their teaching and educational models;

- Being able to produce an appropriate documentation in order to monitor their constant educational intervention with children and colleagues;

- Approve ability to create a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere that promotes the development of children, regarding their social and cultural capitals, and their different learning styles.

## Methodologies

The teaching method and the arguments which will be debated during the lessons aim to develop personal abilities in making good synthesis, thinking and constructing appropriate speeches by using sociological formal language in the right way. In particular, the lessons, watching movies, meetings with external guests and the discussions aim to show how the stringency of formal logic of science may be applied with successful in different social situations, reinforcing students' skills. The student has to show an accurate assimilation of arguments which are object of debate. By this, the course aims to transform the student from a passive actor in an active one, giving chances to

construct his\her autonomy in thinking and action.

## Online and offline teaching materials

Other information and documents, including slides and additional teaching materials, will be constantly published on the e-learning platform of the Sociology of Education M-Z website page.

Evening appointments will be proposed for students who are not able to attend the lessons.

## Programme and references for attending students

1) Dubar C., *La socializzazione. Come si costruisce l'identità sociale*, Bologna, il Mulino 2004.

2) Schizzerotto A., Barone C., *Sociologia dell'istruzione*, Bologna, il Mulino 2012.

3) Satta C., *Bambini e adulti: la nuova sociologia dell'infanzia*, Roma, Carocci 2012.

4) Decataldo A., Fiore B., *Valutare l'istruzione. Dalla scuola all'università*, Roma, Carocci 2018.

## Programme and references for non-attending students

1) Dubar C., *La socializzazione. Come si costruisce l'identità sociale*, Bologna, il Mulino 2004.

2) Schizzerotto A., Barone C., *Sociologia dell'istruzione*, Bologna, il Mulino 2012.

3) Satta C., *Bambini e adulti: la nuova sociologia dell'infanzia*, Roma, Carocci 2012.

4) Decataldo A., Fiore B., *Valutare l'istruzione. Dalla scuola all'università*, Roma, Carocci 2018.

**Erasmus students may ask for an alternative bibliography in English language.**

## Assessment methods

The exam consists in two distinctive tests: written and oral. The oral part of the exam is optional. Both forms of examination may be held in English.

Evaluation criteria:

*Written examination*

- Relevancy of the answer towards the subject demanded;

- Ability to grasp the essential elements of the proposed subject;

- Ability to present the proposed subject in a coherent and consequential manner;

- Completeness of the elements that constitute the answer;

- Spelling and syntactic accuracy.

*Oral examination*

- Knowledge related to the topics analyzed in the bibliography and discussed in class;

- Ability to expose the proposed subject in an orderly and complete manner;

- Understanding and appropriate use of specific concepts relating to complex sociological phenomena;

- Ability of a critical thinking and reflection.

## Office hours

Appointment previously set by email

## Programme validity

The programs are effective two academic years.

## Course tutors and assistants

Noemi Novello, tutor