



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Culture, Differences, Conflicts

1920-3-E4001N090

Learning objectives

This module is designed to analyse the issue of cultural differences, otherness and cultural conflicts, with the aim of highlighting the symbolic and normative components of this field. It aims to offer the conceptual tools needed to comprehend and master some of the crucial aspects of contemporary social and cultural dynamics.

Contents

This module is structured in three parts: the first, general part is devoted to cultural differences; the second to analysing differences and cultural conflicts in terms of gender while the third examines the relationship with the foreign 'other' as well as multicultural policies. In all the parts the focus is centred on the relationship between differences and inequalities.

Detailed program

The module is structured in three parts. In the first part, from a general point of view, attention is focused on the meaning of cultural differences in contemporary world. In the second part the processes by means of which gender differences are maintained and transmitted over time are taken into consideration. Meanwhile, the social and cultural conflicts that can arise as a result of the failure to acknowledge these differences are considered. In this context particular attention is devoted to the dynamics involved in the formation of gender-based stereotypes and prejudices, and the social and cultural effects of these. The third part analyses contemporary processes of globalisation, highlighting the new tensions that the multicultural scenario we live generates. In this context the migrant is considered an emblem of cultural difference. The module aims to explore the major issues connected to multiculturalism but also, more specifically, the cultural ambivalence that relations with a foreign 'other' can bring to light in everyday life.

Prerequisites

In order to master the contents and concepts proposed students need to have a basic knowledge of sociological theories and the main sociological issues (having passed the examinations for the courses Sociology I and Sociology II).

Teaching methods

Lectures and seminars.

Assessment methods

Written exam with open questions aimed at assessing the appropriate use of the concepts proposed in the module.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Required textbooks:

Ilenia Camozzi, *Sociologia delle relazioni interculturali*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2019.

Rossella Ghigi e Roberta Sassatelli, *Corpo, genere e società*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2018.

Further suggested readings:

1) On gender:

M. Kimmel, *The Gendered Society*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2000.

2) On gender and multiculturalism:

S. Moller Okin, *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?* Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1999.

3) On masculinity:

R. W. Connell, *Masculinities*, Cambridge, Polity Press, 1995.
