



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Sociology of Education - A-L

2021-1-G8501R009-AL

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#### Course title

Sociology of Education (A-L)

#### 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 reality 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 Course is organized around six thematic nuclei:

- Social identity, socialization and families - key definition;
- The education system: objectives, characteristics and functioning;
- Inequalities in education; Policies and reconciliation of the times of schools and families;
- The teachers in the school.
- Thematic insights: articles.

## 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.

If Covid-19 pandemic persists, the lessons will take place in a mixed mode: partial attendance in classroom and (asynchronous and synchronous) lessons by remote platform.

## 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 A-L website page.

## **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 2006.
- 3) Fiore B., *La relazione tra famiglie e scuola. Modelli organizzativi e politiche sociali*, Roma Carocci, 2021 (available from April 2021).
- 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) Fiore B., *La relazione tra famiglie e scuola. Modelli organizzativi e politiche sociali*, Roma Carocci, 2021 (available from April 2021).
- 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**

Each test will be assigned a mark out of thirty which will be averaged in the presence of more than one supported modality.

### **First possibility**

Carrying out the written exam with four questions for each exam text and on the materials made available by the teacher. Time available 2 hours.

The evaluation is based on the average of the four questions. All four answers to the questions must be sufficient to obtain the minimum mark to pass the exam. Possibility of oral integration.

### **Second possibility**

It consists of two moments:

- 1) carrying out a work in groups of at least 3 students to a maximum of 4 students for the presentation of a scientific article or chapter in volume made available by the teacher lasting ½ hour.
- 2) Written exam. Students whose groups will present the article or chapter in volume will be given the opportunity

not to take Dubar C.'s text, Bologna, il Mulino 2004; the written exam consists of three questions for each exam text. Time available 2 hours. The evaluation is out of thirty based on the average of the three questions. All three answers to the questions must be sufficient to obtain the minimum mark to pass the exam. Possibility of oral integration.

The final grade is an ponderate average: 30% for work in groups and 70% for written exam.

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.

Each intermediate and final exam will receive a mark:

<18: the student has not obtained the minimum required results and needs to deepen the different issues debate in classroom;

18-21: the student obtained the minimum required results, demonstrating a sufficient knowledge of the issues and a sufficient ability to solve the assigned problems;

22-24: the student obtained a good knowledge of the issues, while demonstrating a modest ability to solve the assigned problems;

25-27: the student has obtained a good knowledge of the most important notions and has demonstrated a good ability to solve the assigned problems;

28-30 with honor: the student has obtained an excellent knowledge of the most important notions and has shown an excellent ability to solve assigned problems.

If Covid-19 pandemic persists, the exams will only be oral. They will be carried out using the WebEx platform; on the e-learning page of the course there will be a public link for access to the examination.

## **Office hours**

Appointment previously set by email

## **Programme validity**

The programs are effective two academic years.

## **Course tutors and assistants**

Assistant: Dott.ssa Arianna Cavaliere [a.cavaliere4@campus.unimib.it](mailto:a.cavaliere4@campus.unimib.it)

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