UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Sociology

2021-2-E2004P017

Learning area

STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ASPECTS RELATED TO COMMUNICATION PROCESSES

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 five 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 and daily experiences of social reality; 5) the role played by the techno-scientific knowledge in daily life routines: the development of the ‘mass knowledge society’.

Detailed program

· Introduction to sociological epistemology: positivism, realism, interpretative understanding

· Modern society and Sociology

· Secularization, citizenship, power, and the problem of social order in modern societes

· Interpretation of modern society given by the founding fathers of Sociology (Functionalism, Durkheim, Marx, Weber)

· Brief overview of contemporary sociological theories: structuralfuncionalism (Parsons, Merton), power and conflict (Dahrendorf, Collins), 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 in modern history.

Teaching methods

Because of the Covid-19, the lectures will take place in this way:

1. asynchronously with video lessons recorded through the Kaltura system; the lectures will be uploaded on the teacher's e-learning page;

2. the lecutres will follow the sequence that will be indicated at the beginning of the course;

3. I'm planning for three synchronous meetings via Webex; the partecipaton is optional; these meetings will be dedicated to clarify the topics discussed in the video lectures;

4. in order to understand the arguments of every single video lecture, students are invited to study the topics in advance.

The teaching method focus on the development of synhthesis skills, thus facilitating the practical application of the theoretical concepts.

Lectures 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 indipendent judgement.

Assessment methods

Written (required), oral (optional).

The written questions can be 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.

The oral examination concerns the whole program and the end vote is the avarage of the written and the oral. In order to oral examination, it's necessary to be sufficient in the written one.

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

Bibliography:

1. Dispensa (downloadable from the teacher's e-learning website);

2. Ghisleni M (1998), *Teoria sociale e modernità. Saggio sulla storia della sociologia*, Carocci, Roma: Cap. I (esclusi par. 1.6, 1.7, 1.8), Cap. II, Cap. III, Cap. IV, Cap. V, Cap. VII (solo par. 7.1);

3. Bagnasco A, Barbagli M, Cavalli A (2012), *Corso di sociologia*, Il Mulino, Bologna, terza edizione: Cap. I (solo par. 6), Cap. II, Cap. III (esclusi par. 6.1, 6.2), Cap. XI (esclusi par. 4.7, 8), Cap. XII;

4. Ghisleni M, Moscati R (2001), *Che cos'è la socializzazione*, Carocci, Roma;

5. Ghisleni M (2004), *Sociologia della quotidianità. Il vissuto giornaliero*, Carocci, Roma: Presentazione, Cap. I, Cap. II, Cap. III (escluso par. 3.5), Cap. IV (solo par. 4.6, 4.7);

6. 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).