



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Representations and Cultural Practices

2021-2-E4001N116

Learning objectives

The objective of this course is to provide theoretical and methodological tools to understand the social, cultural and institutional dynamics shaping our everyday life. Particular attention will be devoted to the symbolic, ideological and communicative dimensions making up our 'common sense' in various field of social life.

Contents

The course has two non-sequential parts. First, there we will deepen our knowledge on some key approach to analyze representations and cultural practices: the work of Stuart Hall and British Cultural Studies, and the work of Pierre Bourdieu. Second, there will be a focus on specific themes where students would use the theoretical and methodological concepts analyzed in the first part of the course.

Detailed program

The course will be structured around blocks of lessons introducing, themes, concepts and research perspectives to the analysis of representations and cultural practices. We will start from asking: what are representations and in which way they relate with culture, language and cultural practices? The course will provide two main approaches emphasizing the intrinsic political dimensions of representational systems. Thus students will be called to follow some of the questions that have been addressed by Stuart Hall and Pierre Bourdieu in their works. Students will learn how to think with these thinkers to interpret the social reality and the symbolic systems making up our life words in various fields. To accomplish these learning objectives students will work in groups and autonomously on exercises and readings. Among the themes we will approach during the course particular attention will be devoted to intercultural relationships, racialization processes, subcultures and on the relationships among 'common sense', institutions and the media system.

Prerequisites

no prerequisites

Teaching methods

Frontal lessons, seminars, discussions of texts and exercises.

Assessment methods

An oral examination at the end of the course will be the main method of assessment.

During the course, students will be however involved in self-evaluation activities and group works.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

James Procter (2007) *Stuart Hall e gli studi culturali*, Torino: Raffaello Cortina Editore

Stuart Hall e Tony Jefferson (2017) *Rituali di resistenza: Teds, Mods, Skinheads e Rastafariani. Subculture giovanili nella Gran Bretagna del Dopoguerra*. [Cap. 1 e cap. 3.]

Stuart Hall (2006) *Il soggetto e la differenza. Per un'archeologia degli studi culturali e postcoloniali*, Roma: Meltemi [cap. 1, 2 e 3] [disponibile sulla piattaforma del corso]

Pierre Bourdieu (1983) *La distinzione. Critica sociale del gusto*, Bologna: Il Mulino [solo cap. 3] [disponibile sulla piattaforma del corso]
