UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Sociology of Family

2021-3-E3901N010

Learning objectives

This course aim at realizing the formative objective of the Bachelor's Degree in Social Work providing students the theoretical and methodological tools to contextualize and understand family dynamics and family-society relationships. In particular, the course aims to provide competences to: 1) analyze the plurality of family forms and their variations through time; 2) understand how family structures change through times; 3) understand the relationship between family and social stratification; 4) understanding the mechanisms of reproduction of social inequalities through family contexts; 5) problematize family educational practices and their relationships with educational institutions; 6) understand how increasing family vulnerabilities impact on children.

The course will provide as well some basic competences to read and discuss the sociological literature dealing with family issues and to develop an ethnographic gaze which is crucial to allow Social Work graduates to understand the context in which they will operate in their professional work.

Contents

Transformation of family structure through time; generations and the life course; gender dimension; family socialization and education practices; family and institutions; inequalities and family life; basics of research methodology.

Detailed program

This course aim at offering students concepts, theories, and methodologies to contextualize and understand family dynamics, the relationship between family and society, and, in particular, between families and institutions.

The first part of the course deal with the provision of a conceptual grid and a sociological vocabulary. On the one hand, students will acquire a map of the sociological literature on the family issue, on the other hand, they will acquire knowledge about the transformations of contemporary family structure and its key dynamics.

The second part of the course will focus on the relationship between families and institutions. Here a more interactive classroom work will be encouraged through teamwork, oral presentations, empiric researches, classroom discussions. The focus would be on medical and school institutions which constitute key field of mediation for social work professions. This part of the course will be based on the direct reading of classic sociological texts.

Prerequisites

there are no prerequisites to attend this course.

Teaching methods

The course will be carried out "at distance". Lessons will be streamed live through Webex.

The first part of the course will be carried out mainly through frontal lectures. In the second part, students will be called to work in team, to read essays, and to discuss them by using a flipped classroom didactic model.

Assessment methods

Learning will be verified through an oral examination.

During the course, self-evaluation examinations will be provided which will not concur to the final mark.

Students can choose between 2 different types of oral examination.

a) answering 2-3 questions on the exam texts [suggested for non-attending students]

b) discussing with the teacher an essay chosen by the student. The discussion will be lead by the student but the teacher will verify his or her capacity to deal with the sociological concepts and theories which has been object of the course. .

Textbooks and Reading Materials

1) Handbook:

Chiara Saraceno e Manuela Naldini (2007) Sociologia della Famiglia, Bologna: Il Mulino

2) One amone the following monographies

Annette Lareau (2011) Unequal Childhood. Class, Race and Family Life, Berkeley: University of California Press (solo cap. 1., 2, e Parte III).

Luc Boltanski (1972) Puericultura e morale di classe, Rimini: Guaraldi Editore

Eva Illouz (2020) La fine dell’amore. Sociologia delle relazioni negative. Codice Edizioni.

Further essays to deepen knowledge will be provided during the course.