UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Sociology of Communication

2021-3-E2001R005

Course title

Communication, education and institutional forms

The course provides an introduction to the key concepts of sociology - with a specific focus on sociological definitions of education and its communicative and ceremonial nature. It also explores how organisations ceremonially constitute themselves and discursively produce their target audiences.

Topics and course structure

The first part of the course will focus on the reading of some sociological classics (such as Durkheim, Weber, Bourdieu), exploring the issue of the relationship between communication and education.

The second part of the course will address the issue of organisations - and in particular those providing services to persons - by focussing on their ceremonial nature and the discursive construction of their forms of intervention.

Starting from the discussion of the organisational phenomenon, the concluding part will propose a reflection on the nature of intercultural communication and the way the latter portrays the presence of the other.

Objectives

This course, by means of constant and participative lecture attendance, aims to promote the following learning in terms of:

- acquisition of an analytical and conceptual framework which, starting from sociological 'knowledge' enables students to interpret communicative and educational phenomena in an innovative way;
- achievement of specific skills to relate and compare different sociological knowledge and models;
- strengthening the students' interpretative and logical skills which, in turn, will support their autonomy of judgement.

Methodologies

Frontal lecture and discussions of the covered topics in order to assess the critical skills acquired. The course will attempt to stimulate discussion with students through the reference to real cases.

Due to the Covid-19 emergency, the lectures will take place remotely and synchronously.

Online and offline teaching materials

Texts present in the course pack and other reading materials are available in the e-learning section of the Sociology of Communication course.

Programme and references for attending students

1. A course pack that includes the following sociological classics:

I. E. Durkheim, *Educazione* (1911), in Id., *La sociologia e l'educazione* (a cura di S.S. Acquaviva), Newton Compton, Roma 1971, pp. 29-49 or É. Durkheim (1893, 1902), La divisione sociale del lavoro, Edizioni di Comunità, Milano, pp. 99-116.

II. T. Parsons e R. F. Bales, *Famiglia e socializzazione* (1955), Arnoldo Mondadori, Milano 1974, pp. 9-31 e 49-57.

III. P. Bourdieu, *La riproduzione. Elementi per una teoria del sistema scolastico* (1970), Guaraldi, Rimini 1972, pp. 165-190.

IV L. Althusser, *Lo stato e i suoi apparati* (1995), Editori Riuniti, Roma 1997, pp. 142-149 e 178-196. If you are using the document uploaded in the e-learning website, read pp. 20-43.

V. M. Foucault, *Sorvegliare e punire. Nascita della prigione* (1975), Einaudi, Torino 1993, pp. 186-223.

VI. M. Foucault, *Lezione dell'8 febbraio 1978*, in Id., *Sicurezza, territorio, popolazione. Corso al Collège de France (1977-1978)*, Feltrinelli, Milano 2007, pp. 91-104.

VII M. Weber, *Economia e Società* (1922), Edizioni di Comunità, Torino, Vol. I, pp. 207-217.

VIII, E. Goffman, *Il rituale dell'interazione* (1967), il Mulino, Bologna, 1988, pp. 1-35.

2. W. Baroni, G. Petti, *Cultura della vulnerabilità*, Pearson, Milano 2014 (except chapter 1).

3. S. Giordano, *L'estetica del pregiudizio. L'immagine degli homeless nei media e nella comunicazione dei servizi sociali*, in "Etnografia e ricerca qualitativa", 2, 2013, pp. 232-255.

4. A. Sayad, *Immigrazione e "pensiero di stato"*, in Id. *La doppia assenza. Dalle Illusioni dell'emigrato alle sofferenze dell'immigrato*, Cortina, Milano 2002, pp. 367-384.

5. W. Baroni, *Contro l'intercultura*, Ombre Corte, Verona 2013 (except chapter 2)

If they wish, Ecomark students, may replace texts 3 and 4 respectively with

J. W. Mayer, B. Rowan, *Le organizzazioni istituzionalizzate. La struttura formale come mito e cerimonia* (1983), in W. P. Powell, P. J. DiMaggio (a cura di), *Il neoistituzionalismo nell'analisi organizzativa*, Edizioni di Comunità, Torino 2000, pp. 59-87.

And

W. P. Powell, P. J. DiMaggio, *La gabbia di ferro rivisitata. Isomorfismo istituzionale e razionalit' collettiva nei camp organizzativi*, in Idd. (a cura di), *Il neoistituzionalismo nell'analisi organizzativa*, Edizioni di Comunità, Torino 2000, pp. 88-115.

Programme and references for non-attending students

Idem

Assessment methods

Examinations will be held orally and, as long as the Covid-19 emergency continues, remotely.

The assessment criteria are as follows:

1. ability to respond to the examination questions pertinently;
2. ability to express concepts using a sociological appropriate language.

Office hours

By appointment only.

Programme validity

The course syllabus is valid for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants