UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Sociology and Social Research

2122-1-E1501N127

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

Social reality is exposed to incessant changes, especially rapid in recent decades. Sociology is the science that aims to analyse and explain the taken-for-granted reality of social life and to show the processes by which it is changing. The general aim of the course is to provide students with an expertise of concepts and technical/methodological tools through which they can analyse and interpret social reality and its changes. Methodological skills will also be implemented through guided exercises. These proficiencies are essential for professionals of tourism and of organizations operating in local communities.

Applying knowledge and understanding

The aim is to provide students with the proficiencies to orient themself in the panorama of empirical social research in order to critically and in an informed way identify problems and intervention methodologies within various organizational structures and different local contexts.

Contents

The course is organized on three foundational and two thematic issues:

1. the concepts and the technical tools through which students can understand and interpret social reality;

2. introduction to social research;

3. quantitative and qualitative social research;

4. participatory action research;

5. gender sensitive research.

Detailed program

The course aims to provide students with an expertise of sociological concepts, a knowledge of the main paradigms and methods of sociological research. Specific attention is dedicated to tourism; indeed, the course offers conceptual and methodological tools for the knowledge of the sociological dimensions undelying the tourist demand.

It starts from a theoretical and general study of central issues, categories and tools of Sociology, after it continues analyzing some specific problems and research fields of Sociology: tourism and local communities.

With regard to tourism, in particular, gender differences will be addressed in the design, implementation and evaluation of tourism experiences. With reference to local communities, specific attention will be dedicated to strategies to involve the inhabitants in specific research activities aimed at enhancing their needs and their points of view. These issues will be discussed, also with external experts, with students both during the traditional lessons in the classroom and through individual and group excercises.

Prerequisites

Basic educational skills in logic, social culture, and reasonable ability in learning, writing and communication.

Teaching methods

The course will be conducted by traditional face to face lessons (also with external experts) and exercises.

Assessment methods

Blended elearning intermediate tests (individual and group exercises), written and (discretionary) oral examinations.

Evaluation criteria:

Written examination

- Relevancy of the answer towards the subject of question;

- Ability to grasp the essential elements of the proposed issue;

- Ability to present the proposed issue 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 classroom;

- Ability to expose the proposed issue 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.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

1) J. Manza, R. Arum, L. Haney (a cura di M. Santoro, 2018), P*rogetto Sociologia. Guida all'immaginazione sociologica*, Torino, Pearson;

2) Corbetta P. (2014), *Metodologia e tecniche della ricerca sociale - Parte prima. I paradigmi di riferimento*, Bologna, il Mulino.

3) Decataldo A., Russo C. (2022), *Metodologie partecipative per la ricerca sociologica*, Torino, Pearson.

4) Decataldo A., Ruspini E. (2014), *La ricerca di genere*, Roma, Carocci.

Specific indications will be provided for attending students.

Erasmus students may ask for an alternative bibliography in English language.