UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Tecnoscienza, Comunicazione e Innovazione

2122-2-F8802N028

Learning objectives

The objective of the course is to introduce the study of the knowledge society by developing C.W. Mills' concept of sociological imagination, in the perspective of an integrated social science open to the contributions of the other sciences, without losing its own disciplinary specificity in object and method, but, on the contrary, bringing to them its own historical-processual and reflexive view.

Contents

Foundations of the sociology of knowledge. Science and technics in historical and epistemological perspective. Thematization of the concept of technology. Risk and innovation communication. Technoscience, neoliberal policies and democracy in the framework of the knowledge-society.

Detailed program

INTRODUCTION - Sociological study of knowledge

PART ONE - From the philosophy of science to the sociology of science

PART TWO - Technoscience within the knowledge-society

CONCLUSION - Italy in perspective

Prerequisites

None.

Teaching methods

Frontal lessons

Assessment methods

Oral examination

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The examination programme for all students, both attendees and non-attendees, is divided into two PARTS:

PART 1) preparation of two books, one compulsory and one optional:

a) compulsory text: Cerroni A. (2020) *Understanding the knowledge society. A new paradigm in the sociology of knowledge*. London: Edward Elgar.

b) one text of your choice among the followings:

b.1) Benton T., Craib I. (2001) *Philosophy of social science*. New York (NY): Palgrave (recommended for those who want to deepen the philosophical foundations of social science).

b.2) Cerroni A., Simonella Z. (2014) *Sociologia della scienza. Capire la scienza per capire la società contemporanea*. Roma: Carocci (recommended for those who want to better understand science and its dynamics in contemporary society)

b.3) Carradore R., Cerroni A. (forthcoming), *Comunicazione e incertezza scientifica nella società della conoscenza. Teoria e casi di studio nella sociologia del rischio*. Milano: Franco Angeli (recommended for those interested in a series of researches on risk perception and communication, with particular attention to the agro-bio-food field).

b.4) Cerroni A. (forthcoming), Sociological imagination of innovation. The future today. London: Edward Elgar (recommended for those interested in understanding the cultural matrix of both public perception of science and contemporary research and innovation)

b.5) Sorice M. (2020) Sociologia dei media. Una introduzione critica. Roma: Carocci (recommended for those who have never dealt with a course in sociology of communication).

PART 2) In addition, everyone will also write a paper (8,000 words approx., in English or French, to be sent by email at least one week in advance to the teacher) starting from one or more chapters of one of the following texts:

c.1) Elias N. (1939) *The process of civilisation*. Oxford (UK): Blackwell

c.2) Polanyi K. (2001) *The great transformation*. Boston (MA): Beacon

c.3) Bourdieu P. (2012) *Sur l'État (2 voll.)*. Paris: Raisons d'agir

c.4) Another classic of sociological thought previously agreed with the teacher.