SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Rappresentazioni e Pratiche Culturali

2223-2-E4001N116

Learning objectives

The aim of the course is to provide students with a set of theoretical and practical tools to understand and analyse *the social organisation of contemporary cultural worlds* in their practical and discursive dimensions.

Contents

The course is divided into two parts. In the first part, the main contemporary theories relating to the field of cultural studies will be presented, with particular attention to the role of symbolic power and the issues related to the process of *boundary-work*. During the second part, the theme of "sustainability" will be explored from a cultural point of view through in-depth studies and exercises, in order to test the analytical categories discussed through the first part.

Detailed program

The course is divided into two parts. In the first part, the main contemporary theories relating to the field of cultural studies will be presented through the critical analysis of contributions from different disciplines, from sociology to anthropology, from the philosophy of social sciences to the cultural history. This first part, in particular, will be sub-divided into three modules.

- The first one will address the question of the interpretation of social action, with an analysis of the relationship between the cultural construction of bodies and symbolic power. We will question what it means to talk about "individual behaviour" and to what extent we are free to act and collectively intervene to modify certain courses of action.
- A second module will be devoted to the deconstruction of the concept of cultural identity, paying attention to

the so-called *boundary-work* and the related role played by power mechanisms at the subjective and institutional levels. Here we will explore the theme of the mask, cultural difference and visual representations of categories of belonging.
- Finally, a third module, will deal with interpreting two specific fields of cultural production, addressing the critical analysis of artistic and scientific forms of knowledge. Here we will be concerned with comparing the different modes of "social organization of truth" produced within these two social fields.

The second part of the course, on the other hand, will be dedicated, through in-depth studies, exercises and collective discussions, to the analysis of cultural representations and practices linked to the theme of sustainability. The aim, in this case, will be to critically discuss the state of the art of cultural research on this particular contemporary phenomenon, in the Italian and international context and, therefore, to test the analytical categories discussed in the first part of the course.

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of the main theories and issues in the cultural sociology and communication processes

Teaching methods

Lecture in class; seminar activities; discussions about texts and audio-visual material.

Assessment methods

For those attending, the examination will consist of a written examination with open questions (very short essays) at the end of the course related to the handout distributed at the beginning of the course and composed of the texts listed in the bibliography below and preceded by a public presentation, of a group project work during the course, in the forms described in the classroom.

For those not attending, the exam will consist of a written test with open questions (very short essays) about the texts indicated in the bibliography

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Texts for students who do attend to lectures

Handout 'Cultural Representations and Practices, A.A. 2021-2022' (which will be available shortly before the beginning of the course, at the Fronteretro copy shop, Viale Sarca 191), which includes the following essays (or partial extracts).

Part 1 - The analysis of contemporary cultural worlds

a. Individual, behaviour and power: social practice

1. Schutz, A. (1955) *Don Chisciotte e il problema della realtà*, Roma, Armando, pp. 25-59, ed. or. in *Collected Papers*, vol.II, Martinus Nijhoff, 1971 (1955).

2. Douglas, M. (1966) *La contaminazione nella sfera profana,* in *Purezza e pericolo,* Bologna, il Mulino, pp.57-73, ed. or. in *Purity and Danger. An Analysis of the Concept of Pollution and Taboo*, Harmondsworth, Penguin Book, 1970.

3. Bourdieu, P. (1997) *La conoscenza col corpo*, Milano, Feltrinelli, pp.145-171, ed. or. in *Meditationes Pascaliennes*, Paris, Editions de Seuil.

4. Foucault, M. (1975) *I mezzi del buon addestramento,* in *Sorvegliare e Punire*, Torino, Einaudi, pp.186-212, ed. or. *Surveiller et punir. Naissance de la prison,* Paris, Gallimard.

b. The dilemma of cultural identity

1. Hall, S. (1996) *Chi ha bisogno dell'identità?*, Milano, il Saggiatore, pp.1-17, ed. or. in Hall, S. e du Gay, P., *Questions of Cultural Identity*, London, Sage,.

2. Said E. W. (1999) *Una geografia immaginaria e le sue rappresentazioni: orientalizzare l'Oriente*, in *Orientalismo*, Milano, Feltrinelli, pp. 56-78, ed. or. *Orientalism,* New York, Pantheon Books, 1978

3. Pizzorno, A. (2005) *Saggio sulla maschera*, in "Studi culturali", N.1, pp.85-109

4. Goffman, E. (1977) *La ritualizzazione della femminilità*, ed. or. *La ritualisation de la féminité*, in "*Actes de la recherche en sciences sociales*", 14, pp. 37-50.

c. Art and science: creativity as practice and representation

1. M. Baxandall (2001) *L'occhio del Quattrocento*, in *Pittura ed esperienze sociali nell'Italia del Quattrocento*, Torino, Einaudi, pp. 41-103 (estratti), ed. or. Painting and Experience* *in Fifteenth Century Italy*, Oxford University Press, 1972

2. Fine, G.A. (2006) *Attraverso un vetro scuro. Le previsioni meteorologiche e le promesse del "lavoro sul futuro"*, in "Etnografia e ricerca qualitativa", N.2, pp.215-247

3. Bourdieu, P. (2003) *Un mondo a parte,* in *Il mestiere di scienziato* , Milano Feltrinelli, pp.47-106 (estratti), ed. or. *Science de la science et réflexivité*, Paris, Raison d'agir, 2001.

Part 2 - Cultural practices and representations of sustainability

1. Warde, P. (2018) *L'invenzione della sostenibilità* (estratti), ed. or. *The Invention of Sustainability: Nature and Destiny, c.1500–1870*, Cambridge University Press.

2. Latour, B. (2020) *L'Antropocene e la distruzione (dell'immagine) del Globo* in *La sfida di Gaia,* Roma, Meltemi, pp. 129-165 (estratti) ed. or. Face à Gaïa. Huit conférences sur le nouveau régime climatique,* Paris*,* La Découverte, 2015

3. Gary Alan Fine (1997) *La costruzione sociale della "Natura" come addomesticamento del selvaggio: il dilemma del "overpick" nella cultura dei raccoglitori di funghi*, in *Social Problems* 44:68–88

4. Bartoletti, R., Cecchelin, G. (2016) *Narrazioni e pratiche della natura in città: gli orti urbani tra cortili e foreste domestiche,* in *Studi Culturali*, 1, 39–60.

Texts for students who do not attend to lectures

Giglioli, P. P. (2007), *Da Parsons a Ricoeur passando per Bali*, in *Aut Aut*, n.335, pp. 37-55

Becker H.S. (2004) *I mondi dell'arte*, Bologna, Il Mulino.

Burke, P. (2019) *La storia culturale*, Bologna, il Mulino..

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | CLIMATE ACTION