UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Teoria Sociale e Politica Contemporanea

2324-1-F8802N051

Learning objectives

To provide advanced knowledge and skills on the main contemporary social and political theories; to develop the ability to grasp the connections between contemporary approaches and classical theories; to exercise the ability to apply theoretical models to the analysis of social phenomena and processes.
Among the expected learning outcomes, by the end of the course the student will: have become familiar with the concepts employed by contemporary sociological theories and will be able to recognise the different interpretative visions and modes of analysis elaborated by them; have refined the ability to apply concepts and theories to the analysis of social processes.

Contents

The course is divided into two parts. The first part provides an overview of the main approaches in contemporary social and political theory. The second part deals with some of the key themes that have characterised the debate in the social sciences: the individual-society relationship, the analysis of forms of power, interpretations of contemporary modernity and social change, globalisation and processes of individualisation.

Detailed program

Topics covered in the lectures:

Society and social theory
The structure of social and political theory
The relevance of the classics
Everyday life, symbolic interactionism, phenomenology

Dramaturgical approach and order of interaction
Structuralism and poststructuralism
The cultural and interpretative turn
Contemporary critical theory
Interpreting modernity

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of the main classical social and political theories

Teaching methods

Classroom lectures; individual and group work based on assigned readings during the course.

Assessment methods

Oral examination on the topics covered in the course; there will also be in itinere tests based on reports and short essays with classroom exposition to practise communication skills and foster understanding of the concepts.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

(Provisional list)
Recommended text for the first part of the course
Baert P. Carreira Da Silva F. (2010), La teoria sociale contemporanea Bologna: il Mulino.

Other recommended texts
Elliott A. (2022, 3rd ed.) Contemporary Social Theory; an introduction Abingdon: Routledge
Segre S. (2019) Le teorie sociologiche contemporanee, Rome: Carocci.
Delanty G. Turner S.P. (2022) Routledge International Handbook of Contemporary Social and Political Theory New York: Routledge

Further bibliographical information will be provided during the course.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | REDUCED INEQUALITIES