



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Contemporary Social and Political Theory

2425-1-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

The course consists of 56 hours, of which approximately 60% with didactic teaching (frontal lessons using slides, audio and video) and 40% with interactive teaching (exercises, subgroup work). The course consists of classroom lectures. It also includes group work on the basis of readings assigned during the course.

Assessment methods

Written exam, based on open questions aimed at evaluating preparation on the exam program and the ability to independently reflect on topics covered in class. Mandatory oral exam: interview on topics covered in class and on the exam texts. There are also ongoing tests based on reports and short essays with classroom exposure to exercise communication skills and promote understanding of 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
