UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Sociology of Family

2526-3-E3901N010

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding:
Students will acquire a critical understanding of the main sociological theories of the family, including the historical and cultural transformations of family structures, as well as the conceptual tools needed to analyze the social, demographic, and normative changes affecting family relationships in contemporary society.

Applying knowledge and understanding:
Students will be able to apply sociological concepts and methods to analyze concrete family phenomena, with particular attention to issues such as parenting, gender role distribution, family policies, non-traditional family forms, and the intersection between family and social inequalities.

Making judgements:
Students will develop the ability to critically interpret empirical data and case studies related to family life, formulating independent judgments about family dynamics through various theoretical and methodological perspectives, while also considering the ethical and social implications of their analyses.

Communication skills:
Students will be able to clearly and coherently communicate sociological concepts, research findings, and critical reflections both in written and oral form, using appropriate sociological terminology and adapting their communication style to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Learning skills:
Students will acquire methodological and conceptual tools for independently deepening their study of family-related phenomena, fostering a reflective and critical attitude that will be useful for further sociological studies and for analyzing professional contexts involving family-related issues.

Contents

Changes in demographic structure and in family types.
Analysis of roles and family relationships.

Detailed program

The course will provide students with the theoretical and empirical basis for analyzing and understanding family, gender and generational relationships.

We will firstly analyzing the classical sociological thought on family relationships; secondly we will take into consideration the different dimensions (demographic, economic, historical, political and cultural) that have transformed family structures as well as intimacy and care.

These changes are of great relevance to those who are involved in social services, who must face new problems.

The course is in continuity with the family law course, the “tirocinio” and preliminary to the "family and minors" optional laboratory that will take place on II semester.

Prerequisites

Grammatical and syntactic correctness of the written text.

Teaching methods

The course consists of 42 hours, of which approximately 75% with didactic teaching (frontal lessons using slides, audio and video) and 25% with interactive teaching (interaction in the classroom and working groups).

Assessment methods

The final exam is based on a written exam with two questions on the exam text and on the materials provided by the teacher. Time available 2 hours. The evaluation is out of thirty based on the average of the three questions. All three answers to the questions must be sufficient to obtain the minimum pass grade of the exam. Possibility of oral integration.

Students will be given the opportunity to work in groups of a minimum of 3 students to a maximum of 4 students for the presentation of a scientific article or chapter in a volume made available by the teacher for a duration of 10 minutes.
The presentation of the work allows to increase the score of the final exam from a minimum of 1 point to a maximum of 3 points.

The final evaluation for the course will be based, as said, on a written exam designed to assess the achievement of the learning objectives. The following criteria will be taken into account:

a. General Assessment Criteria

Accuracy of responses in relation to the course content.
Analytical skills and the ability to apply theoretical concepts to concrete examples or research cases.
Clarity of expression, coherence in argumentation, and use of appropriate academic language.

b. Objectives of the Written Exam

The exam is intended to assess

- Knowledge and understanding of the core concepts in the sociology of the family.
- The ability to make connections and establish links between the various topics covered during the course.
- The capacity to critically and personally rework the themes discussed, also in light of the assigned readings and class discussions.

c. Specific Aspects Evaluated

- Knowledge and integrated application of theoretical concepts and ethical principles discussed in class and in the assigned materials.
- Technical and critical thinking autonomy, demonstrated through the analysis of cases and simulations of sociologically relevant situations.
- Quality of writing, assessed based on text organization, relevance and synthesis of information, and the use of professional language consistent with the disciplinary context.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

1. Saraceno C., Naldini E., “Sociologia della famiglia”, Il Mulino, Bologna, (edizione 2021 - IV edizione), no chapter 2 and chapter 5.
2. Integrative documentation provided during the course.

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

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES