

# UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

# **COURSE SYLLABUS**

# **Communicating Social Research**

2526-2-E4001N131

## Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

To provide the skills necessary for the textual formalization of social research.

Applying knowledge and understanding

Use of logical, rhetorical, stylistic tools in the development of a text through workshop activities.

Making judgments

To foster a critical attitude toward argumentative repertoires used in the social sciences. Communication skills

Learning skills

Fostering the attitude of experimenting through writing.

#### **Contents**

The course aims to provide the knowledge and tools necessary for the production and writing of the different types of a sociological text.

#### **Detailed program**

With the aim of providing students with the knowledge and tools necessary both to critically approach a sociological text and to proceed with its organization and drafting, the course will be structured on several levels. After an introduction devoted to the relationship between the social sciences and writing, some basic indications concerning

the most common drafting styles will be given in the first phase. Then we will focus on the rhetorical and logical-argumentative structure that characterizes productions concerning the social sciences, alternating theoretical exposition with analysis and discussion of excerpts from books and articles. The writing of short essays, applying the skills acquired, will constitute the laboratory aspect of the course, liable to assessment in itinere. While attention will be paid to the prevailing models of writing and structuring scientific text that have emerged in recent decades, other modes of writing, reworking and communicating social research data, as well as the use of infographics and images, will also be considered.

# **Prerequisites**

Students in the course should have knowledge of major sociological theories and basic methodological skills.

#### **Teaching methods**

The course is divided into lectures devoted to dispensational teaching (80 percent) and interactive teaching (20 percent) focusing on exercises and analysis and discussion of articles, parts of books and other textual types.

#### Assessment methods

Two different and alternative modes of evaluation are possible:

the first mode consists of an oral test in which, with reference to the texts in the syllabus, knowledge related to the modes of construction of argumentation and to the main theoretical issues concerning the structuring of texts in the social sciences will be considered.

the second mode consists of on-going assessments of individual works that will be assigned during the course. This work involves the production of written papers and their discussion during class, with a final assessment focusing on the level of application of the logical, rhetorical, stylistic and formal criteria explained during the course.

Both modes of verification are aimed at:

ascertain the degree of acquisition of the course knowledge;

the ability to apply the knowledge learned;

the ability to critically analyze stylistic, rhetorical and argumentative aspects of sociological texts.

## **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

#### **Sustainable Development Goals**

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES