UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Sociology of Education

2526-3-E1901R131

Course title

What We Talk about When We talk About Education

Topics and course structure

The course will seek to provide a sociological definition of educational activity. The initial segment of the course will introduce the principal theoretical frameworks of sociology that enable the understanding of education.

It will thereafter examine the specific modalities of educational work, exploring two dimensions: the ceremonial and credentialing aspects of educational activities, as well as the discretionary elements that characterise the daily practices of educators.

Finally, the ceremonial dimensions of education will be considered through the reading of the works of a classic in sociology, Erving Goffman.

Objectives

This course, through constant and participative lecture attendance, aims to promote the following learning in terms of:

- acquisition of an analytical and conceptual framework which, starting from sociological 'knowledge' enables students to interpret education phenomena innovatively;
- achievement of specific skills to relate and compare different sociological knowledge and models;
- strengthening the students' interpretative and logical skills, which, in turn, will support their autonomy of

judgement.

Methodologies

Frontal lecture and discussions of the covered topics to assess the critical skills acquired. The course will attempt to stimulate dialogue with students through the reference to actual cases.

Online and offline teaching materials

Reading materials are available in the e-learning section of the Sociology of Education course.

Programme and references

1. W.S. Baroni, *Sociologia del lavoro educativo. Un'introduzione*, Carocci, Roma 2021.

2. Cappellato V., Cataldi L., *Coping strategies e razionamento. La discrezionalità degli operatori sociali come street-level bureaucrats e situated agents*, in "Sociologia del lavoro", 155, 2019, pp. 96-119.

3. Meyer J. W., Rowan B, *Le organizzazioni istituzionalizzate. La struttura formale tra mito e cerimonia*, in W. W. Powell e P. J. DiMaggio, *Il neoistituzionalismo nell'analisi organizzativa*, Edizioni di Comunità, Torino, 2000, pp. 59-87

4. One text of your choice between:

E. Goffman, *Asylums. Le istituzioni totali: i meccanismi dell'esclusione e della violenza*. Students can use all available editions. Chapters to read: *Prefazione* di Alessandro Dal Lago, *Prefazione, Premessa, Sulle caratteristiche delle istituzioni totali, La carriera del malato mentale*.

E. Goffman, *La vita quotidiana come rappresentazione*, il Mulino, Bologna. Students can use all available editions. Chapters to read: *Introduzione all'edizione italiana* di Pier Paolo Giglioli, *Introduzione*, *I. Rappresentazioni*, *II. Equipes*, *VI L'arte di controllare le impressioni*.

E. Goffman, *Il rituale dell'interazione*, il Mulino, Bologna. Students can use all available editions. Chapters to read: *Introduzione*, *I. Giochi di faccia, II. La natura della deferenza e del contegno, IV Alienazione dall'interazione, V. Sintomi di malattie mentali ed ordine pubblico.*

As an alternative to the Goffmanian texts, one may opt for:

I.F. Cortés, G. Petti, *Giustizia Minorile. Ascesa e declino del tribunale per minorenni in Italia*, Mondadori Università, Segrate (Mi). Si devono leggere *Indroduzione*, Capitolo 1 *Una giustizia a misura di minori e famiglie*, Capitolo 4 *Verso il declino del Tribunale per i minorenni*, Capitolo 5, *Il destino del Tribunale per i minorenni.*

Assessment methods

Students are required to take an oral exam on the subjects introduced during the lecture.
Moreover, Students will also have the opportunity to write a short essay during the course on the same topics. The short essay will be the subject of assessment. In the event of a positive assessment, the oral exam will not be required. Further information will be provided at the beginning of the course.

The assessment criteria are as follows:

1. ability to respond to the examination questions pertinently;
2. ability to express concepts using a sociological appropriate language.

Office hours

By appointment only.

Programme validity

The course syllabus is valid for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

REDUCED INEQUALITIES