



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Fondamenti di Sociologia

2526-1-E1602N005

Aims

Knowledge and Understanding

The course provides a foundational understanding of key sociological concepts, categories, and perspectives, with an introduction to two classical theorists (Durkheim and Weber). Students will become familiar with major sociological themes such as social interaction, inequality, institutions, culture, family, education, and the societal impact of new technologies.

Applied Knowledge and Understanding

Students will be guided in applying sociological concepts to the interpretation of contemporary social realities. Class activities promote active and contextualized understanding, encouraging connections between theory and everyday life.

Independent Judgment

Through the discussion of texts and case studies—including material from various expressive forms—the course fosters critical thinking about society and its transformations. Students are encouraged to develop their own interpretations and to distinguish between opinions and arguments grounded in theoretical and empirical evidence.

Communication Skills

The course supports the use of basic sociological language. Guided discussions help students improve their ability to express ideas clearly and appropriately in relation to the concepts studied.

Learning Skills

The combination of in-class lectures and asynchronous thematic modules (later discussed in class) encourages the development of an autonomous yet guided study method. The course aims to strengthen independent learning, the ability to identify relevant information, and the development of sociological reasoning.

Contents

The course provides an introduction to the fundamental concepts of sociology and key interpretive approaches to social phenomena. Topics include socialization, culture, inequality, institutions, family, and education, with a focus on the relationship between individuals and society. Part of the course is dedicated to exploring the impact of new technologies on social life. Two classical sociological theorists, Emile Durkheim and Max Weber, are also presented. Teaching includes in-class lectures and remote thematic modules designed to promote active and reflective learning.

Detailed program

The course offers an introduction to the key concepts, tools and perspectives of sociology as a discipline that enables critical understanding of social processes and the structures that shape them. The teaching is structured into three main sections, forming a gradual path through theory, classical authors and contemporary issues.

1. Introduction to the Sociological Perspective and Core Concepts
 - What is sociology: subject, method, and sociological outlook
 - Sociological thinking between common sense, science and critique
 - The relationship between individual and society
 - Culture, norms, and values
 - Socialization and identity
 - Groups, roles and institutions
2. Classical Authors and Approaches
 - Emile Durkheim
 - Max Weber
 - The relevance of the classics: reflections based on contemporary issues
3. Sociology and Contemporary Society
 - Stratification and social inequalities
 - Family change
 - Education systems
 - Labour market and consumption
 - Social transformations in the digital age

Prerequisites

None

Teaching form

The course consists of 56 hours, approximately 80% of which are delivered through traditional teaching methods (lectures using slides, audio, and video) and 20% through interactive teaching methods (discussions, exercises, group work, presentation of case studies).

The course allows for up to a maximum of 30% of the hours to be conducted remotely (asynchronous).

Language: Italian

Textbook and teaching resource

Bagnasco A., Barbagli M., Cavalli A. "Elementi di Sociologia", Seconda edizione, (2013), Bologna, il Mulino, (Capp. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13).

Santambrogio A., "Introduzione alla sociologia", (2019), Bari, Laterza, (Capp. 4 e 5 della parte seconda).

Arosio L., La Celebrante. Racconti dal tempo futuro, (2024), Viterbo, Uttersson.

Semester

First semester

Assessment method

Mid-term assessments

No mid-term or partial assessments are scheduled.

Type and structure of the final exam

The final exam consists of an individual written test composed of four open-ended questions:

Two questions on general concepts and the foundations of the sociological perspective;

One question on the classical authors studied (Durkheim and Weber);

One question on contemporary applications, referring to phenomena such as inequality, institutions, family, the labor market, or digital transformations.

Skills assessed

The exam is designed to assess:

Knowledge of the fundamental concepts of sociology;

Understanding of the classical thinkers and their impact on the discipline;

Ability to critically analyze and apply sociological concepts to contemporary phenomena;

Command of sociological language and clarity of argumentation.

Assessment criteria and grading scale

Student performance is evaluated on four main levels:

Fail: incomplete knowledge, unclear or incorrect answers;

Pass (18–23/30): basic knowledge of definitions, limited critical insight;

Good (24–27/30): solid understanding, clear exposition, some independent reflection;

Excellent (28–30L/30): full mastery, strong connections, thoughtful and original application.

Alignment with learning objectives

The written exam effectively assesses the acquisition of fundamental concepts, understanding of classical contributions, and the ability to apply sociological reasoning to current issues—consistent with the learning outcomes expected in an introductory undergraduate course.

Office hours

Send a mail to laura.ariosio@unimib.it

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION
