



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Sociology of Labour

2627-2-E4002N017

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#### Learning objectives

##### Knowledge and Understanding

Analysing the functioning of the Italian labour market in a European comparative framework, with particular attention to the economic, social and institutional factors that influence the level and composition of employment and unemployment. Illustrating the changes in occupations and in ways of working in advanced societies, with particular attention to front-line service jobs.

##### Applied Knowledge and Understanding

To make students able to analyse the characteristics of occupations, read the main indicators concerning the labour market, analyse statistical data and identify the structural features and main trends of the labour market in a comparative perspective.

##### Independent Judgement

To develop students' ability to critically assess labour market data, with particular attention to the reliability of sources, the validity of indicators, and potential sources of distortion.

##### Communication Skills

To strengthen students' ability to communicate effectively, using appropriate concepts and indicators to interpret labour market dynamics, also through class participation.

##### Learning Skills

To enhance students' learning abilities through the use of diverse study materials, including textbooks, research monographs, academic articles, and supplementary resources.

#### Contents

The labor market changes are one of the most relevant aspects of the social transformations. They are also a very

interesting topic for economic sociology studies. After having presented the main changes of the labor market, the course will take into consideration the characteristics of customer oriented jobs, on the one hand, and the role of trade unions, on the other.

## **Detailed program**

The course is divided into two parts.

The first part, after having presented some basic concept of economic sociology and showed concepts and tools of analysis of labour markets, deals with the main changes that took place. In particular a special attention will be devoted to the labour participation of women, the unemployment models in Europe and Italy, emphasising on penalization of youths, the main trends of employment in Europe and Italy, emphasising the process of "tertiarisation", the incorporation of immigrants in the labour market and the role of the unions and of collective bargaining.

The second part introduces the main sociology of work concepts and applies them to the analysis of lived working experiences and of work practices in front-line service jobs (jobs that entail worker-customer interactions)

## **Prerequisites**

Students must be able to understand hypotheses connecting socio-economic phenomena to their likely reasons.

## **Teaching methods**

28 lectures will be delivered using both erogative and interactive teaching methods (as average 50% erogative teaching methods and 50% interactive teaching methods). Course contents will be presented in class (erogative methods), while also encouraging connections with the direct experiences of students (interactive methods). The balance between erogative and interactive components varies across lectures. In approximately 10 lectures, the interactive component will be more prominent, with class discussions led by student groups on specific topics. On average, 50% of the time is dedicated to erogative methods and 50% to interactive ones, including student interventions prompted by the instructor.

Various tools available on the e-learning platform will be used throughout the course.

Teaching will take place in presence and in Italian.

## **Assessment methods**

Written examination (2 open-ended questions). An oral exam can be requested by the teacher or by students.

Assessment will take into account the student's command of key terms and concepts, the accuracy of definitions, and the ability to connect the topics covered during the course, relating them to personal experiences and/or concrete examples.

## Textbooks and Reading Materials

**The detailed references list will be provided before the beginning of the classes on this e-learning platform.**

The main references are:

- Cavalca G., Mingione E. and Pugliese E. (2024), *Il lavoro. Dalla rivoluzione industriale alla transizione digitale*, Carocci editore (excluded chapters 2, 3 and 9)
- Fullin G. (2023), *I clienti siamo noi. Il lavoro nella società dei servizi*, Il Mulino.
- Gaiaschi C. (2020), *Doppio standard. Donne e carriere scientifiche nell'Italia contemporanea*, Introduzione e cap. 1
- Reyneri E. (2017) *Introduzione alla sociologia del mercato del lavoro*, Il Mulino, capitolo 6 (pp. 149-163) e capitolo 9 (pp. 251-257; 263-273; 275-280).

Other texts will be included in the list (check the e-learning platform before the beginning of the classes).

\*INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS. A reading list in English will be provided to exchange students upon request. An English exam will be allowed as well.

## Sustainable Development Goals

GENDER EQUALITY | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | REDUCED INEQUALITIES

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