



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Sociology of Contemporary Conflicts

2627-1-F8804N032

Learning objectives

Knowledge and Understanding

To provide the skills necessary for understanding and analyzing the dynamics of conflict that unfold at various levels: global, regional, international, national, and local.

Ability to Apply Knowledge and Understanding

Application of conceptual tools and interpretive frameworks to contemporary political, social, and cultural conflicts

Independent Judgment

Foster a critical attitude toward the argumentative strategies and justificatory models used in journalistic reporting and expert analyses of conflict contexts.

Communication skills

Strengthen the range of argumentative tools needed to express independent positions regarding current scenarios.

Ability to learn

Foster the ability to critically evaluate various theoretical tools in light of changing events.

Contents

The course aims to provide the conceptual tools for a sociological approach to the dynamics of conflict, applying them to scenarios of conflict and confrontation that arise at the global, regional, international, national, and local levels.

Detailed program

The course aims to provide a sociological analysis of contemporary conflict dynamics, examined at the global, regional, international, state, and local levels, breaking away from established academic divisions that assign the analysis of sub-state dynamics to sociology, the analysis of interstate dynamics to international relations, the analysis of war to strategic studies, and so on.

The first part of the course will be devoted to developing conceptual tools. We will begin with an analysis of the first chapter of the first book of Karl Clausewitz's *On War* and the chapter on "Conflict" in Georg Simmel's *Sociology*, before turning our attention to authors such as Raymond Aron, Michel Foucault and Randall Collins.

Subsequently, the theoretical insights developed will be applied to the issues most defining the present: the return of war and its legitimization as an instrument of international politics; the crisis of globalization; the emergence of a geopolitics of vast spaces; the forms war takes and its hybridization with security policies; the prominent role of private actors in international relations; and forms of protest and expressions of dissent.

Prerequisites

A good understanding of classical sociological theories and the most recent approaches.

Teaching methods

The course consists of lectures (80 percent) and interactive sessions (20 percent) focused on exercises and the analysis and discussion of articles, excerpts from books, and other types of texts.

Assessment methods

An oral exam designed to assess knowledge of the texts, the ability to present ideas, vocabulary proficiency, and critical thinking skills.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
