UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Sociologia e Analisi del Rischio

2627-1-F8805N029

Learning objectives

Knowledge and Understanding
The course aims to convey, on the one hand, the interpretative models that have emerged in the social sciences on the topic of risk, linked to the transformations in its definition, perception, and communication; and, on the other hand, the main strategies for analysing the dimension of risk in contemporary social contexts.

Applying Knowledge and Understanding
Students will be able to apply theoretical and methodological tools to analyse the dimension of risk in contemporary societies, working also on case studies and examples.

Making Judgements
The course develops students' critical abilities in identifying and justifying the adoption of different theoretical and methodological approaches, in relation to various types of risk and specific social contexts.

Communication Skills
Students will acquire the specialised language of the sociology of risk, necessary to clearly and effectively present analyses and reflections in both academic and professional contexts.

Learning Skills
The course fosters the development of skills useful for independently deepening topics and perspectives related to the sociology of risk, encouraging critical learning.

Contents

The central themes of the course are the different approaches used to analyse and understand the dimension of risk in contemporary societies, as a structuring dimension of relational dynamics and decision-making processes. The course addresses the mechanisms of definition, perception, representation and communication of risk in

relation to processes of social change, also focusing on the main approaches used to investigate this dimension in different areas of social life.

Detailed program

The course aims to provide students with the concepts, theoretical perspectives and methodological tools for understanding and analysing risk in contemporary social contexts. Particular attention will be paid to how risks are defined, perceived, assessed and managed by institutions, organisations, experts and citizens, and to the role of communication processes in representing, interpreting and addressing risks.

Specifically, the course is organised into three parts:

I) Main theoretical approaches to the study of risk in the social sciences, with particular attention to the different ways in which risk has been conceptualised and interpreted by sociology and other social sciences, as well as to key authors and theoretical contributions on the subject.

II) Methodology and techniques for analysing risk in different areas of social life, with particular attention to the epistemological premises guiding the definition and study of risk, the main quantitative and qualitative approaches, and the development of tools and analysing risk phenomena. Specific cases and application contexts will be discussed.

III) Introduction to the processes and mechanisms of risk communication, with particular attention to the actors involved, communication channels, and the ways in which risk-related information and knowledge are produced, conveyed, and received.

Prerequisites

No prerequisites.

Teaching methods

The course consists, approximately, of 75% lectures (with slides and video materials) and 25% interactive learning activities (small-group work, presentations and discussions of case studies). All classes are conducted in a face-to-face format. During the course, the active participation of students in teaching activities is encouraged.

Assessment methods

Both attending and non-attending students will be assessed via a written exam consisting of open-ended questions based on the required course texts.
There are no mid-term exams.

The assessment criteria are as follows:

1. Knowledge of theoretical concepts and methodological approaches to risk analysis.
2. Appropriate use of terminology and precision in written expression.
3. Ability to construct critical arguments and establish connections between different topics.
4. Completeness and coherence of written responses.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Course handout by the instructor.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | REDUCED INEQUALITIES