General Sociology

Prof. Marco Caselli

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course outlines the historical development of sociological thought and introduces the key concepts and topics of contemporary sociological debate.

**Intended learning outcomes**

Knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, students will have a basic knowledge of the main works and the theories of Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, and some of the most important sociologists of the 19th and the 20th century. Furthermore, they will be able to understand the key elements in the current debate on some of the most important topics of contemporary sociology.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, students will be able to make full use of some of the most important topics of contemporary sociology; in addition, they will be able to apply their new skills to the reading and understanding of sociological texts.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– Defining sociology

– The origins of sociological thought

– Sociology in 20th-century Europe and America

* Recent developments
* The agency vs. structure dilemma
* The individual and society
* Cultural processes
* Economics and work
* Politics and society
* Cities, globalisation and migratory processes

***READING LIST***

1. R. Bichi, *Sociologia Generale*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2022 (limited to the chapters that will be pointed out in class by the lecturer and on the Blackboard platform).

2. V. Cesareo, *Sociologia. Teorie e problemi*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 1993 (Chapter I).

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures, individual study and group work. Throughout the year, attending students are invited to analyse, individually or in small groups, a number of texts selected by the lecturer for presentation in class.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The oral exam will focus on all three texts indicated in the reading list. At the end of the first semester, both attending and non-attending students will be allowed to participate in an optional written test, which will focus on the part of the course dedicated to the presentation of the thought of the main sociologists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and will include five open-ended questions, worth 6 points each***.*** The reading list for the written test (which, in case of a pass mark, will no longer be required in the oral exam) includes the texts by Bichi (Part I) e Cesareo. Assessment, both of the oral test and of the optional written test, will be based on relevance and correctness of answers given to questions; particular importance will be attributed to students’ knowledge of the correct definition of the concepts studied as well as to their appropriate use more generally of specific terminology during the test. The individual and group in-depth studies referred to in the previous point are optional, and will also be subject to assessment; they will partially replace the exam reading list, according to the indications provided by the lecturer. More information on the execution of the final exam and on the assessment methods will be provided during lectures and office hours.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, students should ideally show a certain curiosity towards the subject, and have a basic knowledge of contemporary history.

Prof. Marco Caselli also accepts dissertations in English and French.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.