General Sociology

## Prof.Valerio Corradi

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

**Course aims**

The first part of the course aims to outline the historical development of sociological thought and to illustrate the main theoretical paradigms. The second part of the course is finalized to introduce the main concepts and topics of contemporary sociological debate.

**Intended learning outcomes**

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

At the end of the course, students will have acquired a basic knowledge of the thought and works of the main “classical sociologists” ( Marx, Durkheim, Simmel, Weber, Parson) as well as the contemporary scholars (Bauman, Beck). Furthermore, they will have learned the essentials of current debate on some of the main issues which are the subject of the most recent sociological studies.

ABILITY TO APPLY KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

At the end of the course, students will have acquired the ability to master someone of the main concepts of sociological analysis and the competences required to read and autonomously understand texts related to the disciplinary field of sociology.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– Definition of sociology

– The origins of sociological thought

– Figures and paradigms of 20th century sociology in Europe and America

* Latest developments of sociological reflection
* The transformations of the concept and idea of ​​“community”
* Difference and identity
* Culture and cultural processes
* Inequalities and poverty
* Space, territory and environment
* Globalisation and human mobility.

***READING LIST***

First part:

P. Jedlowski, *Il mondo in questione. Introduzione alla storia del pensiero sociologico* (17th reprint), Carocci, Rome, 2020.

A. VITALE*, Sociologia della comunità*, Carocci, Roma, 2007

Second part:

M. Ambrosini, L. Sciolla, *Sociologia* (2nd edition), Mondadori, Milan, 2020.

M. CASELLI, V. CESAREO, V. CORRADI, M. TACCOLINI (curated by), Brescia e la sfida glocale, Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2021 (Introduction, parts II, IV, V).

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures in the classroom, individual in-depth study and group work. More specifically, during the year attending students will be invited to analyse some theme recommended by the lecturer, individually or in a group and, subsequently, to present the contents in the classroom.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam will focus on the texts of the reading list. At the end of the first semester, both attending and non-attending students may decide to take an optional written test, covering the part of the programme on the presentation of the thought of the most important 19th and 20th century sociologists; it will consist in six open-ended questions, each of which will be marked out of 5. The texts to be studied for the written test (on which no questions will be asked during the oral test should students pass the written test), include the works by Jedlowski and Vitale. The final oral test will cover the volume by Ambrosini-Sciolla (parts III, IV, V, VI) and the text curated by Caselli and others (Introduction, parts II, IV, V).

The assessment of the oral test and of the optional written test will be based on the relevance and correctness of students’ answers; knowledge of the correct definition of studied concepts as well as the appropriate use thereof, and more generally of the specific relevant lexicon during the test, will be of particular importance. During the second semester, students will be able to carry out individual and group in-depth work (in any case optional) which will be assessed and may be in replacement of part of the exam reading list, as specified by the lecturer.

The final mark will be out of thirty. For students who take the interim test, the final mark will be the average between the mark obtained in the intermediate test and that of the oral test on part of the programme of the second semester. If students take a single oral exam on the entire programme, the mark will in any case take into account their level of preparation on each of the two parts.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As it is introductory, there are no knowledge prerequisites for students to attend the course. Nevertheless, it is assumed that students have an interest and intellectual curiosity in the discipline, as well as at least a minimal general knowledge of contemporary history and of major current events.

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