General Sociology

## Prof. Matteo Moscatelli

COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course aims to introduce students to the use of sociological imagination in observing and interpreting today's society, characterised by risk, uncertainty, individualisation, liquid ties, social inequalities, deviance and multiculturalism.

At the end of the course, students will have acquired essential skills in social and psychological work, in which it is necessary to know the social and cultural context before intervening. In particular, they will be able to:

* apply sociological imagination to the analysis of social change;
* critically analyse individual responsibility in the occurrence of social phenomena;
* recognise the relational nature of the social and the interconnection between subjects, their projects and well-being;
* use the fundamental categories and key concepts of sociological knowledge;
* analyse the cultural and communicative phenomena of a globalised society;
* understand social inequalities and deviance;
* critically analyse migratory phenomena and multicultural societies.

COURSE CONTENT

The course will be divided into two consecutive parts: the first one will introduce some general topics, while the second one will be focused on more specific sociological subjects.

Part 1 (40 hours)

Considering social or psychological intervention as an action aimed at social and personal change, the conditions behind the processes of societal morphogenesis and the role of individual and collective action will be analysed, beginning with the main paradigms and approaches of M. Archer's morphogenetic theory and P. Donati's relational sociology.

The following topics will be covered:

1 - Sociology and the sociological imagination;

2 - The two paths of sociology

3 - Reflectivity and social change

4 - Culture and communication

5 - The social structure: the limitations and facilitations to social action

6 - Man, a reflective individual

7 - From the individual to the relationship

8 - The socialisation process

9 - Social risk and globalisation

Within the first part, three authors will be presented so as to compare different approaches to the topics of social differentiation and different visions of marriage and family:

10 - Émile Durkheim;

11 - Talcott Parsons;

12 - Niklas Luhmann.

Part 2(20 hours)

The second part of the course will focus on the following in-depth contemporary topics, particularly important in the planning of psychosocial interventions:

13 - Social stratification and inequalities;

14 - Different forms of poverty in a globalised world;

15 - Deviance and crime;

16 - Social control;

17 - The migratory phenomenon;

18 - Integration and the multicultural society.

During the course, students will have the possibility to attend an optional *Workshop*, held by a teaching assistant, focused on a very current topic.

READING LIST

* Lecture slides and other material uploaded on Blackboard.
* Manza J., Arum R., Haney L., *Progetto Sociologia, 2/ed,* Pearson, Milan, 2019 (chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 14 & 15 -the last one is available in digital format-).

TEACHING METHOD

The course includes:

* Frontal lectures, held in class, case studies, and guided practical activities
* Online practical activities on Blackboard
* An optional *workshop*, focused on a group work consisting in the application of some of the concepts presented during the course to a current topic, and the writing of a short paper or the making of a short video.

The lectures will be supported by the use of slides. All the teaching material will be made available on Blackboard, in a *blended* learning environment containing all the course material.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The exam is aimed at assessing students' ability to observe social phenomena from a sociological perspective and use some of the key categories and concepts of the discipline. Students' communication skills will be assessed on their ability to construct texts using sociological concepts and terminology, appropriately using the concepts learned in the course. Finally, students will be assessed on their ability to use learning tools based on cooperative activities.

There will be a composite and single assessment of students' acquired skills:

* Monitoring will be carried out during the course, through online tests and practical exercises on the Blackboard platform, based on the teaching units under analysis, in order to assess the skills acquired in the teaching units; this monitoring will contribute up to a maximum of 3 marks to the final mark awarded during the exam.
* At the end of the course, students will have to take a final test online (remotely) that will award them with up to 6 points (pass mark = 4 points);
* The final exam will comprise a closed-question test, worth up to 10 marks (minimum mark = 7), and a test of 3 open-ended questions on the whole programme, worth 4 marks each (minimum total mark = 2 marks with at least 2 questions >0).
* The marks obtained for the various tests can total up to 31/30.
* Attendance at the workshop and completion of the group work can contribute up to 8 marks and - ONLY for those students attending - will replace 2 of the 3 open-ended questions. If a student is unhappy with the mark assigned for the group work, he/she may opt for the exam comprising all 3 questions.

Students who do not follow the ongoing assessment programme will undertake the following in the exam:

* 1 closed-question test worth up to 11 marks (minimum total mark to pass to the next test = 7);
* 5 open-ended questions worth 4 marks each (minimum total mark = 4 marks with at least 3 questions >0).

In the open-ended questions, students will be assessed on:

* + the specific vocabulary used (1);
  + their ability to argue (1);
  + the correctness of the conceptual connections drawn (1);
  + their ability to critically rework the topics (1).

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

Being introductory in nature, there are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, a degree of intellectual interest and curiosity regarding the study of society and social relations is assumed.

Students are advised to regularly consult the Blackboard platform for alerts and updates and to constantly check their Unicatt email.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

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.