# Sociology of Education

## Prof. Mariagrazia Santagati

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

The course aims to: offer an introduction to sociology as a scientific discipline; understand the specificity of the sociological method and the link between theory and research; teach sociological research in education through specific methodological and thematic.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* learn the fundamentals of sociology, the basic tools of social research, and the main issues addressed by sociology of education;
* understand the theoretical, methodological and empirical contribution of sociology to the development of adequate professional competence in the field of education and training;
* read and interpret social dynamics in a scientific way and enhance the tools and results made available by sociological research in the construction of educational interventions.

***COURSE CONTENT***

During the course the following topics will be covered:

– sociology as a scientific discipline, the origins and development of sociological thinking, with reference to the fathers and mothers of sociology between Europe and the USA;

– the transformation of the relationship between education and society between the maintenance of order and social transformation;

– the key topics of the sociological analysis of educational processes (socialisation, identity building, educational inequality, multiculturalism, multimedia);

– the link between theory-method-research, the design of research, the main methods and techniques of quantitative and qualitative fieldwork, with an in-depth analysis of the use of the biographical approach in the study of education;

– the role of socialisation actors and agencies, through an analysis of the methodological approach and results of recent sociological surveys.

***READING LIST***

The student will have to study the following compulsory texts for the exam:

1. E. Besozzi, *Società,* *cultura, educazione*, Carocci, Rome, 2017 (Chaps. 1-2-3-4-5).

2. E. Besozzi-M. Colombo, *Metodologia della ricerca sociale nei contesti socio-educativi,* Guerini, Milan, 2014 (Chaps. 1-2-3).

3. A text (about 100 pp.) to be chosen from a list that will be indicated on Blackboard, in the second semester, on various topics (students of immigrant origin, the role of teachers, gender and education, unaccompanied foreign minors, etc.).

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is built around teaching units, which will be presented in class using PowerPoint slides. The teaching materials will be made available to students on Blackboard. During lectures, tutorials on the research methodology part and topical seminars on the chosen texts will be carried out.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam. During the exam, students must demonstrate clear references to sociology in general, sociology of education in particular, and methodology of social research.

Some of the criteria students will be assessed on include: their ability to use sociological language when reflecting on educational processes; their ability to refer to appropriate theoretical concepts and interpretative categories in the study of educational phenomena; the development of social research methodology skills of sociology of education research data.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

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.