# Principles of Sociology

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[Teaching syllabus borrowed from the Degree in Scienze del sservizio sociale, including the course name *General Sociology*]

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

*Course aims*

The course aims to provide students with the knowledge of the fundamentals of sociology required for their course of study and useful for understanding the main topical issues with greater historical and theoretical awareness.

More specifically, the course provides:

– a general overview of sociology as a subject designed for studying scientifically the structure, functioning, and change of society.

– the fundamental concepts of sociological analysis essential for understanding social phenomena.

*Intended learning outcomes*

At the end of the course, students will have acquired:

- an understanding of the difference between sociological knowledge and knowledge of common sense;

- the essential vocabulary of sociology;

- the ability to outline a general framework of the discipline, with particular reference to fundamental concepts of sociological analysis, in order to continue in further studies;

- the ability to interpret everyday life events, news and personal experiences in a sociological key.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Onepart of the course focuses on the presentation of sociology as scientific discipline. Through the study of the thought of some of the most important classical sociologists, the course will discuss the historical genesis of the discipline, the different paradigms and the main sociological theories developed to analyse, understand and explain social phenomena.

A further part studies the fundamental concepts of sociological analysis, presented through some thematic pathways that are useful for explaining how different man images correspond to different analysis of society. These concepts will be discussed by constantly referencing both the major transformations of contemporary society and everyday life.

The detailed syllabus will be provided at the beginning of the lectures and will be downloadable from the Blackboard platform.

***READING LIST***

L. Gherardi (edited by), *Scoprire la sociologia. Teorie e temi essenziali*, Pearson, Milano, 2021

P. Jedlowski, *Il mondo in questione. Introduzione alla storia del pensiero sociologico*, Carocci Editore, Roma, 2018 (only chapters 1, 4, 5, 6, 11)

In-depth readings

Z. Bauman, *Homo consumens. Lo sciame inquieto dei consumatori e la miseria degli esclusi*, Il Margine (TN), 2021 (or previous editions Erickson).

G. Simmel, *La metropoli e la vita dello spirito,* Armando, Roma, 1996**.**

Further information about the texts will be given at the beginning of the course and uploaded on Blackboard platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures (80%), active learning (20%). Optional practical classes will be submitted during the course in order to allow students to “test” knowledge and skills acquired through singular and group work.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The assessment - whose mark will be expressed out of thirty - will be a written test to be taken according to the exam calendar. The test will be aimed at assessing rigorous study, understanding contents, and students’ ability to use and apply the specific vocabulary of the discipline; it will consist of open questions. The written test can be completed by an oral exam when necessary.

Students’ learning outcomes will be constantly monitored during the course by using active learning tools (for example, think-pair-share, brainstorming).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Blackboard* is the online communication tool between lecturers and students where both notices and information relating to the course and lecture materials will be made available. Registration is recommended from the first lesson.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching and assessment 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.