General Sociology

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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, complexity, individualisation, liquid ties, social inequalities, deviance and multiculturalism.

At the end of the course, students **will know:**

* the fundamental categories and basic concepts of sociology;
* the main sociological approaches to the critical analysis of society;
* the relational nature of the social and the interconnection between subjects, their projects and well-being.

**They will also be able to**:

* apply sociological imagination to the analysis of social change;
* critically analyse individual and political responsibility in the occurrence of social phenomena;
* critically analyse several cultural phenomena of the globalised society.

COURSE CONTENT

In the first part, several classic and contemporary authors who have contributed to the development of the discipline as well as some useful key concepts for considering psychosocial intervention as an action aimed at personal and social change will be presented.

The following topics will be addressed:

* Sociological imagination, the birth and development of sociology;
* Social theories and social change;
* Culture in post-traditional societies;
* The social structure: constraints and facilitations of social action;
* Man as a reflective subject;
* Relational interdependence.

The second part will be dedicated to the in-depth study of several sociological issues of contemporaneity and will focus on some in-depth topics, important for the design of psychosocial interventions:

* Social inequalities and poverty in the globalised world;
* Deviance and social control in the contemporary world;
* The environmental/climate crisis and the sustainability paradigm;
* The migration phenomenon: integration and the multicultural society.

READING LIST

* Lecture slides and other material uploaded on Blackboard.
* Manza J., Arum R., Haney L., *Progetto Sociologia, 2nd edition,* Pearson, Milan, 2019 (chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 14 and 15 - this last chapter is available in the digital version). [*Bought from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/jeff-manza-richard-arum-lynne-haney/progetto-sociologia-guida-allimmaginazione-sociologica-ediz-mylab-9788891905680-551324.html)

One text to be chosen from the following:

* Carrà E. (2008), *Un’osservazione che progetta. Strumenti per l’analisi e la progettazione relazionale di interventi nel sociale*, Led, Milan (pp. 13-74, pp. 87- 103).
* Rovati, G., & Bramanti,D. (2018). *Dalla solitudine alla prossimità. L’esperienza dei custodi sociali a Milano.* Vita & Pensiero, Milan.
* Moscatelli, M., Manzella, A., & Campostrini, A. (2021). *Welfare per sognatori. Esperienze di rigenerazione sociale e urbana attraverso l'arte e la cultura*. Mimesis Edizioni, Sesto San Giovanni.
* Gemenne, F., Rankovic,A. (with preface by B. Latour)(2021), *Atlante dell’Antropocene,* Mimesis, Sesto San Giovanni.
* Ferrari, C. (2023). *Sex trafficking. I percorsi delle donne: dalla marginalità all’impegno in organizzazioni anti-tratta*. Milan: FrancoAngeli.
* Visioli, M. (ed.) (2023). Anna Julia Cooper. *Voce di una donna nera del Sud*. Milan: Vita e Pensiero; &Ferrari C. (ed.) (2023). Jane Addams. *La schiavitù delle donne. Cause e responsabilità sociali*. Milan: Vita e Pensiero[[1]](#footnote-1).

TEACHING METHOD

The course includes:

* Classroom lectures, testimonials and guided practical work
* Online practical exercises on Blackboard

During lectures, use will be made of explanatory slides. All material will be uploaded on Blackboard in a blended learning environment, containing any in-depth materials.

The course, in addition to the frontal lectures, includes 6 hours of practical activities (such as group work, case studies and simulations) aimed at enhancing students' learning and their involvement with the course material.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The exam is aimed at verifying the student's ability to observe social phenomena from a sociological perspective and to use some of the main categories and concepts of the discipline. The exam will also assess the student's ability to understand the discipline's texts and to use the concepts learned in the course and the sociology lexicon. Finally, students will be assessed on their ability to use learning tools based on cooperative activities.

The results of the practical activities will be subject to a final assessment according to methods specified in class.

The assessment will comprise:

*For the lesson-based path*

* Students will be monitored during the course by way of *online tests* on the Blackboard platform, covering the course units, and *face-to-face exercises*; this monitoring will be worth up to a maximum of **10 marks** in the final mark awarded at the exam.
* During the final exam, students will have to take a *closed-ended test* in the classroom that will be worth up to **11 marks** (minimum mark = 7) covering the manual and the topics covered in lectures.
* After passing the written exam, students must take *an oral exam* consisting of two questions, one covering the course programme and one covering the text of their choice. The oral will be worth up to a maximum of **10 marks**.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* The marks obtained for the various tests can total up to 31/30.

*For the text-based path*

During the final exam, students must take the following tests:

* *Closed-question test* that will be worth up to **16 marks** (minimum mark = 11) covering the manual and the topics covered in lectures.
* After passing the written exam, the student must take *an oral exam* consisting of three questions, two covering the course programme and one covering the text of their choice. The oral will be worth up to a maximum of **15 marks.**
* The marks obtained for the various tests can total up to 31/30.

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

* + the specific vocabulary used;
  + the ability to argue;
  + the correctness of the conceptual connections;
  + the ability to critically rework the topics.

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.

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.

1. The texts "Voce di una donna nera del Sud" and "La schiavitù delle donne. Cause e responsabilità sociali" are to be considered as a single item (they cannot be chosen as separate texts). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. In the case of particular organisational needs, the oral exam can be done in writing, with a test consisting of 2 open-ended questions: 1 relating to the programme and 1 relating to the text of choice*,* always for a total of 10 marks. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)