# Sociology of Inequality and Difference

## Prof. Mariagrazia Santagati

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

From a sociological perspective, the course aims to place the analysis of disability and marginality within the broader processes of formation of social inequalities, marginalisation, and socio-relational impoverishment. Attention is focused on the one hand, on the study of inequalities in the theoretical tradition of sociology and on the areas originating inequalities (education, work, welfare, life courses, gender, migrations); and on the other hand, on the processes of exclusion and segregation, also including the resistance strategies implemented by vulnerable subjects.

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

1. understand and correctly interpret the multiple and sudden social and cultural transformations, which require constant adjustments in the care of people with disabilities or in marginal situations;
2. use the results of empirical research carried out in the sociological field for the planning of suitable interventions;
3. contextualise the analysis of the needs of the target categories in relation to the exclusion processes that concern them.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. *Conceptualisations and analysis* *paths*

* Construction of an essential sociological vocabulary: differences and inequalities, marginality, vulnerability, segregation, poverty
* Inequalities in the sociological tradition
* Development of inequalities theories
* Classifications, dimensions, and analysis of inequalities: educational qualifications, occupations, incomes
* The areas of inequality: education, work, welfare, generations and life courses, gender, migrations
* Disability from a sociological point of view: from classics to contemporary literature, old and new paradigms

2. *The contribution of social research on marginality, disability, inequality, and resistance strategies* (one textbook of your choice)

* From racialisation processes in the USA and Europe to anti-racism
* From prison to re-education (with a focus on the prison world)
* From marginality to the associative commitment of exploited women (the case of *sex trafficking*)
* Resistance strategies to ableism (the focus on autism stigma and trisomy 21)

***READING LIST***

For point 1:

O. Giancola, L. Salmieri, *Sociologia delle disuguaglianze,* Carocci, Rome 2020.

A. Genova, *Disabilità. Tra barriere istituzionali e violenza simbolica,* il Mulino, Bologna, 2023.

The parts to be studied will be specified on Blackboard. Additional reading on marginality and poverty will be posted on Blackboard.

For point 2, a textbook to choose from:

B. Pizzetti, *Carcere e rieducazione. Il contributo della pratica teatrale*, FrancoAngeli, Milan, 2021.

C. Ferrari, *Sex trafficking. I percorsi delle donne: dalla marginalità all’impegno in organizzazioni anti-tratta,* FrancoAngeli, Milan, 2023.

G. Gilardoni, *Razzismo situato. Ragioni storiche, culturali ed etiche per contrastarlo,* Vita e Pensiero, Milan 2021.

A. Scavarda, *Pinguini nel deserto. Strategie di resistenza allo stigma da autismo e trisomia 21,* il Mulino, Bologna 2021.

Students may choose and additional volume not included in this list for the exam after agreeing it with the lecturer. Further reading list will be provided during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is structured into teaching units with study materials that will be made available *online* on the Blackboard platform. The slides and the textbooks specified will form an integral part of the materials for the exam. Critical readings, seminars and open lessons may be organised during the course.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The assessment consists of an oral exam on points 1 and 2 of the programme. Students will be required to present their reasoning on the causes and effects of inequalities in the social spheres covered in the programme, both with reference to authors and theoretical concepts, and with concrete examples. The ability to compare concepts and criticism of theoretical approaches is one of skills to be achieved through the examination of the suggested materials. Within the thematic path, students must be aware of the methodological aspects and conclusions of the research. The assessment will be based on criteria such as: use of the subject-specific terminology; analytical-descriptive ability to examine key concepts; interpretative maturity of the social processes covered by the course; correct use of sources and data.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Prerequisites of the course is some basic knowledge of sociology.

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.