## **General sociology**

## Prof. Monica Martinelli

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

The course aims to provide a basic knowledge for interpreting the social reality through a study of the sociological discourse on both a theoretical and methodological level.

Specifically, the course aims to provide the student with:

* A general framework of sociology as an autonomous discipline in the human and social sciences.
* Understanding the distinction between sociological knowledge and common sense knowledge.
* The fundamental categories of sociological analysis indispensable for understanding life in society.
* The ability to interpret the complex social phenomena of specific socio-cultural contexts and the experiences of subjects with the conceptual tools and methodological references of sociological analysis.

At the end of the course, students will be able to: know the main thought traditions of sociology, epistemological frameworks and fundamental categories; critically interpret social dynamics by constructing a theoretical frame of reference that facilitates an independent evaluation of social processes; use, in the construction of educational interventions, the tools made available by sociological research and analysis.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is structured into two parts, with some monographic insights connected to them.

The first part of the course is dedicated to the understanding of sociology as a scientific discipline. To this end, we will focus on the historical genesis of the discipline, its distinctive features (fundamental problems, object, perspective, main paradigms), and on classical authors (in particular, Marx, Durkheim, Weber and Simmel). Particular attention, including specific insights, will be dedicated to the relationship between the individual and society, already a crucial sociological topic for the classical authors.

The second part of the course is dedicated to the fundamental categories and main areas of sociological analysis, such as: action, relationship, social roles, institution, social structure, culture, processes of socialisation, power, conflict, differences, inequalities, social stratification and mobility, groups, organisations, etc. The categories will be presented using topical pathways that will assist in understanding the processes and phenomena of organised social life. These in-depth studies will draw on the contribution of authors and schools of thought in both classical and contemporary sociology, as well as some specific single-subject material and interactive forms of practical exercises in class.

Furthermore, some social processes affecting the social change underway will be analyzed.

***READING LIST***

The reading list will be indicated at the beginning of the lessons.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures which will involve the weekly presentation of the authors, schools of thought, main categories of sociological analysis, and methodological foundations. As a back-up to the lectures, materials will also be made available on the *Blackboard* platform. In addition, some practical sessions will be conducted in class that will allow a deeper exploration of specific topics as well as the perspective through which to observe and learn the socio-cultural processes.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

An oral interview in which students will be required to analytically present and critically discuss course topics. Students must demonstrate their knowledge of authors, sociological theories and categories, as well as their ability to appropriately use the language and specific vocabulary of the discipline. Students will be assessed on accuracy of their knowledge, quality of their understanding, their ability to link sociological concepts with the main authors and reference paradigms, and their effective use of daily life examples to strengthen their argumentation.

The final exam assessment will be expressed as a single mark out of thirty.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

As it is introductory in nature, there are no particular 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.