# Sociology of Migrations and Interethnic Relations

## Prof. Laura Zanfrini

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

The aim of the course is to provide the basic theoretical and conceptual instruments required for studying migrations and interethnic relations, and to analyse selected topical issues and matters in contemporary Italy, Europe and at international level.

*Expected learning outcomes*

Knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, the students will have acquired the knowledge and understanding of:

* The main concepts for the analysis of migration and integration processes and related policies
* The main features of human mobility in the contemporary age, with particular regard to flows directed towards Europe and Italy
* The main features the immigrant population in Europe and in Italy and their evolution from the post-war period to today
* The main theories developed by the social sciences for the understanding of migration processes, integration processes and interethnic coexistence
* The main themes that animate the political and social debate around migratory processes and the processes of integration and inter-ethnic coexistence

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course the students will have acquired the following application skills:

* Consciously use the main sources of data and information on migratory phenomena
* Apply the theories and concepts referred to in the previous point to specific historical-geographical situations
* Critically analyse the issues and problems that animate the public debate on migration processes and integration processes and provide indications for the design of policies and interventions
* Design interventions to be applied in the organizational action (in business, educational, associative contexts, etc.) in relation to specific problems/opportunities connected with the presence of multi-ethnic staff/public

***COURSE CONTENT***

After having presented the glossary for the study of migrations and interethnic relations, the course will focus the attention on the following topics:

* + The process of social and institutional construction of international migrants;
  + The typologies of migrations and the “porous” distinction between the different categories of migrants;
  + Push and pull factors at the basis of contemporary international migrations;
  + The migration regimes and their ambivalences;
  + The migrations for reasons of protection;
  + The integration of migrants in the hosting society;
  + The citizenship regimes and the management of interethnic relations;
  + The family’s role in the migratory processes;
  + The migrants’ offspring and the second generations issue;
  + The European Agenda for integration and the intercultural approach.

Besides this first part, common to the course of “Sociology of Interethnic Relations”, the course of “Sociology of Migrations and Interethnic Relations” will analyse other topics such as:

* The integration of migrants into the labor market and the intercultural management of human resources (notes on Diversity Management);
* Intercultural skills and their enhancement in life and work contexts;
* The religious dimension in migratory processes and in the paths of integration;
* The role of communication and cultural promotion.

***READING LIST***

* + L. Zanfrini, *Introduzione alla sociologia delle migrazioni,* Laterza, Rome-Bari, 2016.
  + L. Zanfrini, *The Challenge of Migration in a Janus-Faced Europe*, Palgrave, London, 2019.
  + Materials provided or recommended in the platform *Blackboard*.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is based on lectures, possibly supported by the viewing of films and documentaries, accompanied and followed by the debate with the students present in the classroom.

For a presentation of some aspects of the contemporary migratory scenario, intervention in the classroom or via video connection of Italian and foreign experts is envisaged.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final exam consists of an oral test.

The evaluation is based on the following criteria: *a)* the pertinence of the terms and concepts employed in the discussion; *b)* the level of knowledge of the course contents; *c)* the ability to connect different subjects and to understand the problems they are involved with; *d)* the ability to use conceptual and theoretical tools for the analysis of concrete case studies.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

To attend the course and take the final exam, it is not necessary to have taken any preliminary exam or possess specific requirements.

Given the contents of the course, which focuses on constantly evolving phenomena, and the type of teaching, course attendance is not mandatory but recommended.

Further information is available in the course’s Blackboard page, lecturers’ webpages (at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG) and the Faculty notice board.

*Times and place of Reception*

Prof. Laura Zanfrini receives students at the Department of Sociology (III floor, room 312) on the days and hours indicated on the professor web page and on the Blackboard platform.