**Sociology (Advanced Course) (with Workshop)**

Prof. Mauro Magatti; Prof. Giovanni Dotti

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

*Course aims*

The course aims to explore the key elements of contemporary sociological theory in relation to ongoing historical and social processes. To this end, the course will introduce a selection of authors, and analyse the key empirical elements of their thought.

*Intended learning outcomes*

At the end of the course, students will be able to interpret and analyse, from a qualitative and quantitative point of view, the most important social phenomena of our society.

In order to do so, students will have to acquire a good knowledge of the theoretical and analytical categories of contemporary sociology, and all the necessary tools to carry out a quantitative study of the phenomena under analysis.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will analyse the different dimensions of social dynamics at the age of globalisation, adopting the perspectives of the main contemporary sociologists.

After a general introduction of the key concepts of technical system and mediatised public sphere (based on the textbook *Libertà immaginaria*), the course will explore the thought of the main contemporary authors on specific topics, following this path:

– Liquid modernity and insecurity (Bauman).

– The technical system and the risk society (Beck).

– Project-based company, the new spirit of capitalism and the crisis of subjectivity (Boltanski, Ehrenberg)

– Cities, the crisis of the State, and migrations (Sassen).

– Globalisation, poverty, and inequality (Bourdieu Milanovic).

– Society, technique, identification (Stiegler)

– Complexity, differentiation and social systems (Luhmann)

– Imagination, secularisation, and religion (Taylor, Roy, Ritzer, Habermas).

– Competition, rivalry, and resentment (Girard).

The detailed syllabus will be made available on the lecturer’s webpage and on Blackboard at the beginning of the course.

***READING LIST***

1. M. Magatti, *Libertà immaginaria. Le illusioni del capitalismo tecno-nichilista*, Feltrinelli, Milan, 2009.

2. A course pack, available on Blackboard, in which students will find the texts written by the authors analysed in class.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures and optional seminaries, organised in collaboration with students.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Assessment method:

Written interim test based on the textbook *Libertà Immaginaria* (week 4)

Written interim test based on the teaching material (week 10)

Text on three video lessons online among those listed on the lecturer’s website (max 10.000 characters)

Group work (min 4-max 6 people) with final podcast (3 minutes) and presentation on topics studied in the second part of the course

The final evaluation will result from 4 components:

1 written exam (30%; 0-9 points)

2 written exam (30% 0-9 points)

3Video Analysis (20% 0-6 points)

4Group work (20% 0-6 points)

The evaluation criteria take into account students’ acquisition of the conceptual categories presented in the course and their ability to use them in the analysis of contemporary social phenomena.

For non-attending students

Final exam with open questions

Analysis text on three video lessons online among those listed on the lecturer’s website (max 10.000 characters)

Assessment criteria: the knowledge of the key concepts presented during the course and the ability to use them to analyse contemporary social phenomena.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

To get the most out of this course, students should have a good knowledge of the key concepts of general sociology, as well as its history.

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.

*Workshop: Analysis and management of complex social phenomena*

Prof. Giovanni Dotti

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

*Course aims*

The course aims to help students become more aware of social complexity and its different dimensions, and directly or indirectly experience some of the phenomena at the basis of social inclusion or exclusion.

In addition, at the end of the course they will be able to take all the necessary steps and reflect upon some of the organisational processes that can have a positive influence on complexity.

*Intended learning outcomes*

At the end of the course, students will be able to directly experience a relevant social phenomenon (chosen among the ones proposed by the lecturer), and elaborate in group the best way to analyse and manage it.

At the end of the course, students will have acquired the competences they need to analyse, from a qualitative point of view, and manage, in terms of problem solving, the most relevant social phenomena of our society.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Alternating moments of direct experience (e.g. group games, simulations, non-verbal animations, interviews, videos, contributions from subject matter experts, collective readings, etc.) and theoretical thinking.

In particular, the course will focus on the changes occurring in the societies and the welfare systems of European countries, and the consequent re-elaboration of service processes and different organisations.

***READING LIST***

The reading list will be made available in class.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

1. Writing (in small groups), and (individual) discussion, of an essay.

Theoretical analysis: 30%

Empirical analysis: 40%

Discussion: 30%

Students will be tested on their knowledge of the key concepts presented in class and their ability to use them in the analysis of social phenomena.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students should have a good knowledge of contemporary sociological theory and a propensity for teamwork.

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.