Sociology of Cultural Processes

Prof. Simone Tosoni

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

The course aims to provide students with key tools to analyse and comprehend the cultural processes of contemporary societies. In particular, the course aims to develop the students’ ability to understand and critically interpret socio-cultural phenomena, with a special attention to the role played by the media and the social media. At the end of the course, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the main sociological theories that have framed the theme of culture and cultural transformation processes. Students will also be able to independently apply a series of methodological tools aimed at studying cultures, and in particular youth subcultures.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is divided into three modules. The first module will introduce the sociological concept of culture as explained by the classical authors, and will provide students with some key conceptual tools for the analysis of cultural processes, with specific attention to the relationship between culture and daily life. The second module will explore the main cultural processes of the present day, with a specific focus on the role played by the media and the social media. Lastly, the third module is a single-subject course that analyses in depth the concept of youth subculture - specifically related to music - and of post-subculture, with reference to Italian cases. In this module students will be provided with qualitative tools to work autonomously – individually or in group - on an empirical research project on contemporary music post-subcultures, to be presented as a paper.

***READING LIST***

For students (who obtained a pass mark in the project):

Course notes.

L. Sciolla, *Sociologia dei processi culturali*, Il Mulino, 2012.

L.Salmieri, *Studi culturali e scienze sociali*, Carocci, 2017.

P. Jedlowski, *Il mondo in questione*, Carocci, 2009 (only chapter 12).

J.Van Dijck-T. Poell-M. De Waal, *Platform Society. Valori pubblici e società connessa,* Guerini e Associati, Milano, 2018.

Mark Fisher, Realismo capitalista, Nero, Roma, 2018.

For students who don’t carry out the research project:

Course notes

L. Sciolla, *Sociologia dei processi culturali*, Il Mulino, 2012.

P. Jedlowski, *Il mondo in questione*, Carocci, 2009 (solo capitolo 12)

J.Van Dijck-T. Poell-M. De Waal, *Platform Society. Valori pubblici e società connessa*, Guerini e Associati, Milano, 2018.

Mark Fisher, Realismo capitalista, Nero, Roma, 2018.

S. Tosoni-E. Zuccalà, *Italian Goth Subculture*, Palgrave, 2020.

Students who have not attended regularly, are requested to complete the course notes with the following text:

L.Salmieri, *Studi culturali e scienze sociali*, Carocci, 2017.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures (75%) and group work (25%).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is divided into two parts. In the first part students will be assessed (individually or in group) through a brief empirical research project on a topic studied in the single-subject course; students will be assessed on their ability to work on the empirical research project autonomously and rigorously, and contextualise it in the framework of the pertinent literature, as well as to discuss its theoretical implications; this will weigh 50% of the total mark. The second part of the assessment is an oral exam; students will be assessed on their knowledge and their clear understanding of topics from the reading list.

The research project may be substituted by an oral exam regarding the reading list*.*

Students will be assessed on their knowledge and their clear understanding of the topics from the reading list.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

Being it an introductory course, there are no prerequisites in terms of course content.

Elective and supplementary readings will be given during 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.