-. Foundations and Methods of Sociology

Prof. Linda Lombi

COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course aims to provide basic knowledge for interpreting the contemporary social reality through a study of the sociological discourse on both a theoretical and methodological level. Starting from an analysis of the most significant stages of sociological thought and the concepts deriving from it, the course intends to bring students closer to the use of a number of social research techniques, highlighting their usefulness in professional practice, especially in terms of explaining and understanding social complexes. To this end, some research conducted on children with health problems and specific disability conditions (autism, down syndrome) will be illustrated.

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

- know the foundations and main trends of sociology;

- reflect on the main conceptual categories of sociological studies;

- critically read social dynamics, with a close look at the reading of contemporary phenomena;

- know the basic tools of social research;

- enhance the tools and results made available by sociological research in the construction of educational interventions.

COURSE CONTENT

The course is divided into two parts:

1. a theoretical part, dedicated to the evolution of sociological thought, to the presentation of the main theoretical perspectives and the most important authors, as well as an analysis of some key sociology concepts and topics (socialisation, culture, social stratification, social inequalities, demographic changes).
2. a methodological, practical and applied part, which will introduce the design of social research through the presentation of social research conducted on children, with a specific focus on the issues of disease and disability.

***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***

***Part One***: Foundations of Sociology

L. Gherardi, *Scoprire la sociologia. Teorie e temi essenziali,* Pearson, Turin, 2021. [*Bought from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/autori-vari/scoprire-la-sociologia-teorie-e-temi-essenziali-ediz-mylab-9788891913579-691979.html)

***Part Two***: Methods of Sociology

A. Scavarda, *Pinguini nel deserto. Strategie di resistenza allo stigma da Autismo e Trisomia 21,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2021.

AR Favaretto, S. Fucci, F. Zaltron, *Con gli occhi dei bambini. Come l'infanzia affronta la malattia*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2018.

For both the first and second part of the course, it will also be necessary to study the slides made available on Blackboard.

TEACHING METHOD

Lectures supported by the presentation of slides, videos and readings. The materials will be made available on Blackboard. During lectures, there will be individual and group exercises.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

During the exam, the student must demonstrate: (1) knowledge of the sociological theories and the works of classical authors; (2) the ability to use the language and specific vocabulary of the discipline; (3) the ability to plan, conduct and analyse the results of a research process conducted using the appropriate methodological techniques.

Students will be given the opportunity to take an interim written test on the reading list during the first part of the course which will take place on a date to be defined in the months of January-February. The methods for taking the interim test, along with its format and scheduling, will be announced on the lecturer's webpage and on the Blackboard platform. The interim test will consist of a battery of questions, in part open and in part closed. The result of the interim test, if passed, will be worth 50% of the overall assessment. Those who successfully pass the interim test will be able to take the oral exam covering the material presented during the second semester. Students who do not take the interim test will, instead, be assessed through an oral exam on the entire course programme.

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

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

Being introductory in nature, there are no prerequisites for attending the course.

**Should the current Covid-19 health emergency not allow face-to-face teaching, remote teaching will be guaranteed using methods that will be communicated in good time to students**.

Information on office hours available on the teacher's personal page at http://docenti.unicatt.it/.

1. The texts indicated in the reading list may be purchased at the University bookstores; they may also be bought from other outlets. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)