**-. Foundations and Methods of Sociology**

Prof. Linda Lombi

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

The course aims to provide basic knowledge for reading contemporary social reality through an in-depth study of sociological concepts, both on a theoretical and methodological level. Starting from the analysis of the most significant stages of sociological thought and the concepts deriving from it, the course intends to introduce students to the use of some social research techniques, highlighting their usefulness for professional practice, especially in terms of explanation and understanding of complex social phenomena. To this end, the course will illustrate some research conducted on children with health problems and specific disability conditions (autism, Down syndrome).

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

- know the foundations and main currents of sociology;

- reflect on the main conceptual categories specific to sociological studies;

- critically read social dynamics, with a careful eye on reading 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 on the evolution of sociological thought, on the presentation of the main theoretical perspectives and the most important authors, as well as on the analysis of some key concepts and themes of sociology (socialisation, culture, social stratification, social inequalities, demographic changes )
2. a methodological, practical and applicative part, which will introduce the design of social research through the presentation of social research conducted in the world of childhood, with a specific focus on the themes of illness and disability.

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

***First part***: foundations of sociology

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

***Second part***: methods of sociology

a. scavarda, *Pinguini nel deserto. Strategie di resistenza allo stigma da Autismo e Trisomia 21,* il Mulino, Bologna, 2021.

a.r. 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 students are also expected 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. Lessons will include individual and group exercises.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

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

Students will be given the opportunity to take an interim written test on the reading list textbooks of the first part of the course which will take place on a date to be defined in January-February. The methods, type, and timing of the interim test will be published on the lecturer's web page and on the Blackboard platform. The interim test will consist of a series of questions, partly open-ended and partly closed-ended. The result of the interim test, if passed, will be worth 50% of the overall assessment. The students who have successfully taken the interim test will be able to access the oral exam regarding 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 final assessment will consist of a single mark out of thirty.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Since the course is introductory there are no content-related prerequisites.

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

1. The textbooks indicated in the reading list can be purchased from University bookstores; they can also be purchased at other retailers. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)