Bachelor in SOCIOLOGY Course of Sociological Theories

2023-24, 1st year, 2nd Semester, ECTS 8, 48 hours Prof. Umberto Pagano

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| **Course Information** | Course of Sociological Theories, Bachelor in Sociology, 8 ECTS, accademic year 2021/2022, 1st Year, 2nd Semester. |
| **Professor Information** | Umberto Pagano, PhD, Researcher at Department of Law, Economic and Sociology. Student reception: after lessons or to be agreed upon request via e-mail: umberto.pagano@unicz.it |
| **Course Description** | The course aims to introduce students to sociological theory, or rather to some fundamental sociological theories, highlighting their possible interconnections. A brief but exhaustive overview of the theoretical systematization of the Discipline will be presented, from its origins up to the most recent developments, from "*grand theoies*" by "classical" Authors to theories of globalization and postmodernity. |
| **Course objectives** | The aim of the course is to frame the historical, scientific and social |
| **and expected** | context in which Sociology was born and evolved, so to analyze the |
| **learning** | relevant features of the main "classical" and contemporary |
| **outcomes** | sociological theories.**Knowledge and understanding:** Students acquire knowledge of the |
|  | fundamental theoretical (microsociological and macrosociological) and |
|  | historical categories of the Discipline, at appropriate level to |
|  | understand their specificity and “value”. |
|  | **Applied knowledge and understanding (i.e., the ability to apply** |
|  | **knowledge and understanding):** Students are able to interpret and |
|  | discuss the main sociological theories, to frame them in the historical |
|  | and social context of reference, to recognize their contribution to the |
|  | evolution of the Discipline and the links between them. They are also |
|  | able to consciously argue about them, making appropriate references. |
|  | **Autonomy of judgment:** Students develop critical knowledge that |
|  | allows them to critically and consciously read and analyze the main |
|  | sociological theories. |
|  | **Communication skills:** Students acquire the specific language of |
|  | sociological theory, the correct use of the categories and lexicon of the |
|  | Discipline. |
|  | **Learning skills:** Students improve their ability to approach |
|  | sociological reflection and the historical and methodological |
|  | framework of the most significant exponents of the Discipline. |
| **Program** | Main topics: |
| **(contents,** | - Introduction to sociological theory. |
| **methods of** | - Classical theories, through the work of some leading authors of |
| **development);** | reference: Durkheim, Marx, Weber, Simmel, Veblen, Mead.- Modern and contemporary “*Grand Theories*”: structural- |
|  | functionalism, the functional theory of stratification and its critics; |

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|  | conflict theory, systems theory, neo-Marxian theory, critical theory.* *Theories of daily life*: symbolic interactionism, dramaturgical approach, ethnomethodology, social exchange theory, rational choice theory.
* Contemporary integrative theories, contemporary feminist theories.
* Postmodern approaches and theories of globalization: the transition from industrial society to post-industrial society, growing governmentality, interpretations of postmodernity, dromology.
* Some major contemporary theorists: Giddens, Beck, Bauman, Baudrillard.
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| **Estimate of the commitment required for****individual study in terms of hours** | Approximately 150 ore |
| **Teaching****methods** | Frontal lesson, cooperative learning. |
| **Learning resources (recommended textbooks, further recommended reading, other****educational material)** | George Ritzer, *Teoria sociologica. Radici classiche e sfide contemporanee*, Apogeo Education - Maggioli Editore, 2012 (Original: *Contemporary sociological theory and its classic roots*, 3rd edition, McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.)During the lessons further readings will be recommended in order to deepen some issues. |
| **Support****Activities** | Within reception activities. |
| **Modality of****Attendance** | Attendance is not compulsory but strongly recommended. |
| **Modality of Assessment** | The final exam will be held orally. |
|  | **Grade** | **Knowledge and understanding****of the topic** | **Ability to analyze and synthesize** | **Use of references** |  |
| Fail | Severe shortcomings and inaccuracies | Irrelevant. Frequent generalizations.Inability to synthesize | Completely inappropriate |  |
| 18-20 | Sufficient.Important shortcomings. | Sufficient capabilities | Sufficient |  |
| 21-23 | Basic Knowledge | The student is capable of correct analysis and synthesis, argues logically andconsistently | The student uses standard references |  |
| 24-26 | Satisfactory. | The student | The student |  |

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|  |  |  | Good knowledge | has good analysis and synthesis skills. The arguments areexpressed consistently | uses standard references |  |
| 27-29 | Very Good | The student has considerable skills in analysis andsynthesis | The student deepened the topics of the exam |  |
| 30-30L | Excellent | The student has excellent analysis andsynthesis skills | Important insights |  |