

Syllabus Course description

Course title:	General Sociology
Course year:	1st
Semester:	1st
Course code:	51073
Scientific sector:	SPS/07
Degree:	Bachelor in Social Work
Lecturer:	Poggio Teresio
Module:	no
Lecturer other module:	/
Credits:	6
Total lecturing hours:	45
Total Hours of availability for students and tutoring:	18
Office hours:	Please refer to the Office hours' monthly schedule on the Reserve Collection. In addition, the lecturer is usually available to students after each lesson. Students with special needs can contact the instructor by email, for different arrangements.
Attendance:	according to the regulation
Teaching language:	English
Propaedeutic course:	none
Course description:	The main aim of the course is to give students a general overview of the main themes and key concepts in sociology. This, in turn, will lead to a better understanding of: the social problems and critical cases they have to manage in their profession; the broad social context of these issues; the rationale for social intervention; interaction with clients, colleagues and other relevant actors in their professional environment.
Specific educational objectives:	Type of course: fundamental course ("area di base"). Scientific area: Sociology. The course aims to introduce students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sociological thinking as a useful tool for professionals in social work and social policy; - The basics of sociological theory and research strategies; - The key themes and concepts in sociology; - How social problems can be framed within general social theory and research; - Critical thinking about social reality, including the advantage of adopting multiple sociological perspectives when addressing social phenomena.
List of topics covered:	<i>Part 1 – Introduction to sociology:</i> Sociology and its importance for social workers. Sociology as a multiparadigm science; its main research strategies and its main connections to the other sciences. An overview of the origins of sociology, its main

	<p>developments and theoretical traditions. The main disciplinary coordinates and branches. Different types of society and the main conceptualizations of contemporary societies in Western Europe.</p> <p><i>Part 2 – Key themes and concepts:</i> Social structure, agency. Social relations and interaction. Culture, values, norms and social institutions. Identity, roles and socialization. Family and intimate relationships. Education. Economy and society. Social stratification, social class, gender, race and ethnicity. Social inequality: local and global perspectives.</p> <p><i>Part 3 – Selected themes for social workers:</i> Individual and family life courses; associated social risks. Intergenerational relationships. Poverty and social exclusion. Migrations. Deviance and criminality. The welfare state.</p>
Teaching format:	Lectures, short exercises and case studies, discussion, interactive activities.
Learning outcomes:	<p>Students are expected to gain knowledge and skills as specified below:</p> <p><u>Knowledge and understanding</u> Sociology as a scientific discipline, its theoretical and research traditions, its relationships with the other sciences, its importance to professions in social work and social policy. The main sociological theories; the key theoretical concepts and the sociological lexicon.</p> <p><u>Applying knowledge and understanding:</u> Capacity to address a social problem in a sociological frame, and in multiple theoretical and research perspectives, when relevant.</p> <p><u>Making judgments:</u> Ability to use the main coordinates of sociology theoretical and research traditions, in order to understand where a sociological contribution collocates in the discipline. Ability to choose, among sociological theories and studies, the relevant ones that best fit for purpose, given a social problem and a task to be accomplished.</p> <p><u>Communication skills:</u> How to critically discuss sociological materials and make connections between different contributions. How to communicate and discuss own ideas and opinions.</p> <p><u>Learning skills:</u> Ability to address new sociological themes using reference resources.</p>
Assessment:	<p>Standard assessment (all students): two steps</p> <p>1. Individual project work (50% of the final marks): 3-4 pages mini-essay, with critical reflections, to be delivered not later than 7 days before the exam. The theme can be selected by the students from a list of subjects prepared by</p>

	<p>the instructor (with a couple of short related readings). The list will be available in the Reserve Collection at the start of the course;</p> <p>2. Final written test (50% of the final marks): 40 minutes test that includes closed-ended multiple choice questions and a few short open-ended questions.</p> <p>Attending students (optional)*: four steps Attending students* can opt for this alternative assessment procedure:</p> <p>1. Individual project work (50% of the final marks): 3-4 pages mini-essay, with critical reflections, to be delivered not later than 7 days before the exam. The theme can be selected by the students from a list of subjects prepared by the instructor (with a couple of short related readings). The list will be available in the Reserve Collection at the start of the course;</p> <p>2. Final written test (25% of the final marks): 40 minutes test that includes closed-ended multiple choice questions and a few short open-ended questions.</p> <p>3. Active participation in class and/or on the Ole-Moodle platform (15% of the final marks; it includes discussion of a few preparatory readings).</p> <p>4. Two Training Quizzes scheduled during the course (10% of the final marks), with closed-ended multiple choice questions and short open-ended questions. Only the best score between the two tests will be considered.</p> <p>* Please note: Students who attend less than 50% of the course – as from the course register – do not qualify as attending students. Their evaluation will follow the standard assessment route.</p> <p>Important (all students, all assessment routes): A positive evaluation of both the individual project and the final written test is needed in order to pass the exam, irrespective of the overall weighted average marks attained.</p> <p>Marks for the whole assessment procedure and for its singles steps are in the range 0-30. Sufficiency is attained when marks are greater than or equal to 18.</p>
<p>Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks:</p>	<p>Individual project: ability to summarize in own words, critical analysis skills, reflection, ability to link own discussion to the themes and concept discussed in the course and its reading materials; logical structure.</p> <p>Final written test: knowledge of course key themes and concepts, ability to evaluate, accuracy, ability to summarize in own words.</p> <p>Active participation: ability to summarize in own words, critical discussion of assigned and preparatory readings, insights from exemplary readings and exercise, reflection, ability to make connections between themes and concepts</p>

	<p>discussed in the course.</p> <p>Two quizzes: knowledge of course key themes and concepts, ability to evaluate, accuracy, ability to summarize in own words.</p>
<p>Required readings:</p>	<p>Yuill, Chris & Gibson, Alastair (eds.) (2011), <i>Sociology for Social Work. An Introduction</i>. Sage. ISBN: 9781848606517, thereafter abbreviated as S4SW. Selected chapters: 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 10. A few copies of this textbook are available at the unibz library.</p> <p>Ritzer, George & Ryan, J. Michael (eds.) (2011), <i>The Concise Encyclopedia of Sociology</i>, Blackwell. ISBN: 978-1-4051-8352-9, thereafter abbreviated as TCES. It is available as an ebook at the unibz library.</p> <p>Selected terms: Attitudes and Behavior; Bureaucracy; Capitalism; Citizenship; Conflict theory; Culture; Dependency and world-systems theories; Division of labor; Dramaturgy; Education; Educational inequality; Ethnic groups; Ethnicity; Fordism and postfordism; Globalization; Groups; Ideal type; Identity: social psychological aspects; Income inequality, global; Institution; Interaction; Language; Life course; Lifeworld; Macrosociology; Micro-Macro links; Migration: international; Mind; Modernity; Modernization; Multiculturalism; Norms; Race; Rationalization; Role; Self; Social change; Social fact; Social structure; Socialization; Socialization, agents of; Solidarity, mechanical and organical; Structure and agency; Symbolic interaction; Values; Verstehen; Welfare dependency and welfare underuse; Welfare state.</p> <p>Attias-Donfut, Claudine & Arber, Sara (2000). "Equity and solidarity across generations". In <i>The Myth of Generational Conflict: The Family and State in Ageing Societies</i>. Routledge. ISBN: 978-0415463270. Pp. 1-19. It is available as an ebook at the unibz library.</p> <p>Additional required readings may be introduced during the course. An up-to-date required readings list will be maintained by the instructor in the Detailed Syllabus on the Reserve Collection, pointing students to all the required readings. Please refer to the Detailed Syllabus when preparing for your exam.</p>
<p>Supplementary readings:</p>	<p>Non attending students – or attending students who have missed some lectures – may want to take advantage of a more comprehensive discussion on given sociological themes and concepts, in addition to the required readings. They may refer to:</p> <p>Giddens, Anthony & Sutton, Philip W. (2017), <i>Sociology. 8th edition</i>. Polity Press. ISBN: 978-0745696683. A few copies of this textbook are available at the unibz library. Previous editions can also be used.</p> <p>Or, for a more succinct discussion, to:</p> <p>Thorpe, Christopher et al. (2019), <i>The Sociology Book: Big ideas simply explained</i>. DK Publishing. ISBN: 978-1-4654-7854-2. A few copies of this textbook are available at the unibz library.</p>

Students who want to more systematically address **sociological theory** may refer to the following essential introduction:

Ritzer, George & Stepnisky, Jeffrey (2018), [*Contemporary Sociological Theory and Its Classical Roots. The Basics. 5th edition.*](#) Sage. ISBN: 9781506339412. Previous editions can also be used. A few copies of this textbook are available at the unibz library.

Besides terms listed in the required readings, [TCES](#) is a good **reference** resource, to be consulted according to own interests.

Additional supplementary readings will be introduced during the course and listed in the Detailed Syllabus.