

Syllabus
Course description

Course title	Sociology of social change
Course code	97132
Scientific sector	GSPS-06/A (ex SPS/08)
Degree	Bachelor in Design and Art (L-4)
Semester	Summer semester 2024/2025
Year	2 nd and 3 rd
Credits	8
Modular	No

Total lecturing hours	30
Total hours of self-study and/ or other individual educational activities	About 170
Attendance	Not compulsory but recommended (Please note: The program of the course will be additionally presented and explained in detail during the first day of class.)
Prerequisites	None
Maximum number of students per class	

Course description	<p><i>The course belongs to the class "caratterizzante" in the curriculum in Design.</i></p> <p>The course gives a general overview about topics, theories and findings of the sociology of social change. It provides introductions in: (1) essential notions for analysing and describing changing social realities; (2) approaches of how to understand causes and driving-forces of social change; (3) basic methods of exploring social change; (4) crucial phenomena and characteristic patterns of social change in selected fields with special reference to some far-reaching megatrends; (5) the research area of changing attitudes, life styles, attentions and living conditions in the sequence of past, present and future generations; (6) substantial lines of social criticism and time-diagnosis and how they correspond with particular notions for describing contemporary society; (7) the question what all of that has to do with design, with its framings of problems and solutions as well as with its challenges and faculties.</p>
Specific educational objectives	<p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have acquired a solid cultural heritage in which technical and media skills are combined with

	<p>theoretical reflection, a necessary prerequisite for approaching the complex phenomena of today's society with awareness and being prepared to act as active participants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have acquired the ability to grasp and analyse contemporary cultural and social phenomena that characterise design and art.
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Lecturer	<p>Carlo Alessandro Nardi office F3.04, e-mail carloalessandro.nardi@unibz.it Webpage: https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/39416-carlo-alessandro-nardi</p>
Scientific sector of the lecturer	nn
Teaching language	English
Office hours	Friday, 08 – 10am
List of topics covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sociological approaches to the study of social change: critical theory, functionalism, systems theory, historicism, methodological individualism, and phenomenology. - Causes and driving-forces of social change. - Power, agency, structure, and social control (with case studies from design and popular music). - Deviance and social change (with case studies from the visual arts). - Social change, sensory scholarship, and design. - The role of technology and media in processes of social change. - Sociology of war. - Modernity, modernization, and risk. - Globalization and McDonaldization. - Changing forms of labour and, in particular, creative labour under neoliberalism.
Teaching format	Frontal lectures as well as accompanied group exercises, discussions, common reading and elaboration of individual assignments.

Expected learning outcomes	Disciplinary competence
	<p><i>Knowledge and understanding</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have acquired the basic knowledge to be able to turn a critical eye to their own work and to deal with contemporary complexity - Have acquired the basic knowledge necessary for further Master's studies in all components of project culture as well as in technical, scientific and theoretical subjects.

	<p><i>Applying knowledge and understanding</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognise the main phenomena of contemporary society, to observe them critically, also from an ethical and social point of view, and to elaborate appropriate solutions at the level of a design proposal/response. - Make use of the skills acquired during the course of study in the event of continuing studies in a Master's degree programme in the field of design and to develop them further. <p>Transversal competence and soft skills</p> <p><i>Making judgements</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be able to make independent judgements, both in the critical evaluation of their own work and in their ability to use the right interpretative tools in those contexts in which they will work professionally in design and/or continue their studies, also considering ethical and social aspects. <p><i>Communication skills</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To professionally communicate and substantiate their own decisions and justify them from a formal, technical and scientific point of view. <p><i>Learning skills</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have developed a creative attitude and learned how to enhance it and develop it according to their own inclinations. - Have acquired basic knowledge in theoretical, technical and scientific subjects as well as a study methodology suitable for continuing studies with a Master's degree programme.
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<p>Assessment</p>	<p>For attending students: Attending students are those regularly present in class and delivering all required assignments during the time span of the course. For them the average of all grades of their completed assignments (oral presentations) will provide the anticipated final examination mark. The validity of the anticipated final examination mark will be concisely checked by some oral final examination.</p> <p>For not attending students: Not attending students are those not regularly present in class and not delivering all required assignments during the time span of the course. They have to study on their own on the basis of a list of essential literature (that will be published in the OLE and MS TEAMS domain of the course) in order to prepare themselves to (a) a thorough oral examination or (b) a written essay and an oral</p>
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	examination, based on a reading list agreed in advance with the tutor, that will provide the final mark.
Assessment language	The same as the teaching language
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	<p>The final assessment is based on the content of all the exercises according to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For attending students: consistency in the elaboration of reports during the oral examination; clarity in the preparation of oral presentations; ability to summarize, evaluate, and establish relationships between topics. - For not attending students: distinctness in answering the questions of the oral examination; ability to summarize, evaluate, and establish relationships between topics. A written essay to complement the oral examination can be arranged in advance and on a topic agreed with the tutor. Written essays must be submitted via Turnitin.
Required readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chan, J., Pun, N., and Selden, M. (2013). 'The politics of global production: Apple, Foxconn and China's new working class'. <i>New Technology, Work and Employment</i>, 28(2): 100–115. • Cuff, E.C., Dennis, A.J., Francis, D.W., and Sharrock, W.W. (2016). <i>Perspectives in Sociology</i>. Abingdon and New York, NY: Routledge, 6th ed. [Chapters 2 (Karl Marx), 3 (Max Weber), and 4 (Emile Durkheim).] https://doi.org/10.31269/triplec.v16i1.1010 • Ritzer, G., and Stepnisky, J. (2021). <i>Sociological Theory</i>. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE, 11th ed. [Chapters 1 (A historical sketch of sociological theory), 13 (Micro-macro and agency-structure integration), 14 (Contemporary theories of modernity), and 15 (Globalization theory).] • Ritzer, G., and Ryan, M. (2002). 'The globalization of nothing', <i>Social Thought & Research</i>, 25(1/2), 51–81. http://www.jstor.org/stable/23250006
Supplementary readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuff, E.C., Dennis, A.J., Francis, D.W., and Sharrock, W.W. (2016). <i>Perspectives in Sociology</i>. Routledge, 6th ed. [Chapter 11 (Michel Foucault).] • de Peuter, G. (2014). 'Beyond the model worker: Surveying a creative precariat', <i>Culture Unbound</i>, 6(1): 263–284. • Ferrell, J. (2009). 'Hiding in the light: graffiti and the visual: Jeff Ferrell highlights the challenges that graffiti art poses to criminological theory'. <i>Criminal Justice Matters</i>, 78(1): 23–25.