



| General information                                     |   |  |
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| Academic subject  | History of Sociological Thought and General Sociology |  |
| Degree course   | Social Work Sciences and Sociology – Path: Sociology  |  |
| Academic Year   | I   |  |
| European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) | 16  |  |
| Language  | Italian   |  |
| Academic calendar (starting and ending date)            | First semester (20/09/2021 – 11/12/2021)              |  |
| Attendance  | Not mandatory but strongly recommended                |  |

| Professor/ Lecturer     |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Name and Surname        | Onofrio Romano  |
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| Department and address  | Department of Political Sciences – Corso Italia, 23                         |
| Virtual headquarters    | Teams (direct contact)  |
| Tutoring (time and day) | Tuesday, 9h00 – 12h00<br>(It is preferable to reserve the meeting by email) |

| Syllabus                    |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Learning Objectives</b>  | The main objective of the course is to provide the future sociology's graduate with the theoretical foundational frameworks of the discipline examined in their historical development, as well as the basic conceptual tools for the analysis of social contexts. It aims to foster the student's ability to orient herself between the different sociological discourses by comparing their underlying paradigms and to recognize the various dimensions that interact and overlap in the fabric of society, identifying their genesis and evolutionary dynamics.   |
| <b>Course prerequisites</b> | Basic philosophical notions. Knowledge of the fundamental development stages of contemporary social and economic history.   |
| <b>Contents</b>             | <p>The course is divided in three parts: the concepts and the subject of sociology; the development of sociological thought and of its main theoretical frames; the relation between sociology and the forms of institutional regulation during modernity.</p> <p>In the first part, we will open the toolbox of sociology, exploring the conceptual means of the discipline and the main topics of social research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is sociology?</li> <li>- Modern society</li> <li>- The social fabric</li> <li>- Culture, language and communication</li> <li>- Social control, deviance and criminality</li> <li>- The sociology of religion</li> <li>- Stratification, social classes and social mobility</li> <li>- Gender and ages</li> <li>- "Races", ethnicity and nations</li> <li>- The sociology of family</li> <li>- The sociology of education</li> <li>- Economy and society</li> <li>- Work, production and consumption</li> </ul> |



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|                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Political sociology</li> <li>- Population and space</li> </ul> <p>In the second part, we will review the most representative intellectual personalities of sociology and the historical development of sociological theories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The origins of sociological thought</li> <li>- Positivism and sociology</li> <li>- Marxist sociology</li> <li>- Durkheim and functionalism</li> <li>- Simmel and the formal sociology</li> <li>- Weber and the action theory</li> <li>- Chicago (sociological) school</li> <li>- Mead, self and society</li> <li>- The Italian sociology</li> <li>- Mannheim and the sociology of knowledge</li> <li>- The Frankfurt School</li> <li>- Parsons and Merton</li> <li>- The phenomenological sociology</li> <li>- Frame analysis</li> <li>- The Palo Alto School</li> <li>- The theory of communicative action</li> <li>- The systems theory</li> <li>- Giddens and the constitution of society</li> <li>- Bourdieu</li> </ul> <p>In the third part, we will focus on the historical development of the relation between sociology and the forms of institutional regulation during modernity. The path will develop as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Socio-institutional regulation during modernity (horizontalism in the nineteenth century; verticalism and golden age of the State; contemporary neo-horizontalism);</li> <li>- The criss-cross alternation law: form of regulation and forms of social theory;</li> <li>- Sociological verticalism in the classics of sociology;</li> <li>- Horizontalism in twentieth century's sociology;</li> <li>- The paradigm delay.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Books and bibliography</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bagnasco A., Barbagli M., Cavalli A., <i>Elementi di sociologia</i>, Il Mulino, Bologna 2013.</li> <li>- P. Jedlowski, <i>Il mondo in questione. Introduzione alla storia del pensiero sociologico</i>, Carocci, Roma 2009.</li> <li>- Romano O., <i>La libertà verticale. Come affrontare il declino di un modello sociale</i>, Meltemi, Milano 2019. [Except caps. 8 and 9]</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Additional materials</b>   |  |
| <b>Work schedule</b>          |  |



| Total   | Lectures | Hands on (Laboratory, working groups, seminars, field trips)   | Out-of-class study hours/ Self-study hours |
|---|----------|--|--|
| <b>Hours</b>                                    |          |  |  |
| 400   | 128      |  | 272  |
| <b>ECTS</b>                                     |          |  |  |
| 16  | 16       |  |  |
| <b>Teaching strategy</b>                        |          | Frontal lessons. Collective discussions on authors, theories and sociological concepts.<br>The course is not offered by e-learning strategy  |  |
| <b>Expected learning outcomes</b>               |          |  |  |
| <b>Knowledge and understanding on:</b>          |          | The student will approach the lexicon and the basic conceptual tools of sociology; the main axes of sociological thought and the theoretical frames in which they have been developed, in connection with the other human and social sciences and with the development of the institutional regulation during modernity. He will also be able to frame social phenomena, identifying their basic features and critically interpreting them. The course aims to provide the future analyst of social relations the tools kit for his professional activity.   |  |
| <b>Applying knowledge and understanding on:</b> |          | By case-studies and classroom discussions, the student will develop the ability to manage the conceptual tools of sociology in order to understand local social structures, aggregating and deviance phenomena, as well as the processes of social change, with a specific focus on the most recurring situations in the work of social analysis.  |  |
| <b>Soft skills</b>                              |          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Making informed judgments and choices</i><br/>The course will develop the student's ability to consciously judge the form and the character of the communitarian relational dynamics, as well as to understand actors' choices and the resources they could activate for change. Students will be guided in collecting, selecting and interpreting social data so that they can formulate independent judgments and consistent reflections on the phenomena that are normally the object of social professions, both in the public and in the private sector, splitting the objective reality from their own subjective assessments.</li> <li><i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i><br/>By fostering their active participation in the classroom, students will be invited to reflect, to identify problems and to develop solutions using the learned sociological concepts. The goal is to strengthen their communication skills in specialized professional contexts and in the scientific domain. The development of such skills will eventually also be improved by written texts.</li> <li><i>Capacities to continue learning</i><br/>The course is not only aimed to disseminate the specific contents of sociological discipline but also the methodologies to learn new theories and concepts in the field of social sciences, as well as to self-build the hypotheses on new social phenomena, in order to prepare students for further advancements in their studies or in social research.</li> </ul> |  |

| <b>Assessment and feedback</b> |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Methods of assessment          | Oral interview about the themes developed during the course |



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| Evaluation criteria                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Knowledge and understanding</i><br/>The student will be able to orient herself inside the conceptual plot of the sociological discipline, as well as to identify its connections between the socio-systemic features of the different historical phases. She will be able to identify single concepts and methodological tools in order to decode the basic elements of the main contemporary social phenomena.</li> <li>• <i>Applying knowledge and understanding</i><br/>Facing specific cases and social frameworks, the student will be able, by using the conceptual tools of sociology, to analyse the relational and socialization dynamics, as well as the attitude of systems and actors to respond to changes and challenges.</li> <li>• <i>Autonomy of judgment</i><br/>The student will be able to evaluate the functionality of specific social contexts with respect to the objectives of growth and well-being of the people belonging to them.<br/>Facing a social phenomenon, she must be able to give it a correct interpretation, basing on the most reliable data sources at her disposal.</li> <li>• <i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i><br/>The student will be able to clearly and appropriately expose (orally and by writing) her diagnoses of social phenomena, as well as to develop her reflections and evaluations founded on reliable data and indicators. The student will be able to easily move from specialist communication registers to simplified and generalist communication modes.</li> <li>• <i>Capacities to learning</i><br/>The student, confronted with new theoretical-conceptual aggregates, will demonstrate to master the methodological learning tools, using summary reports, schemes and conceptual maps.</li> </ul> |
| Criteria for assessment and attribution of the final mark | The final mark is expressed out of thirty. The exam is passed when the mark is equal or higher than 18. For the purposes of the assessment, it will be relevant the knowledge of the topics covered during the course, the ability to establish connections and make comparisons between theories, concepts and themes, the expository and argumentative capacities as well as the autonomy of judgment demonstrated by the student. Full marks are given to excellence in each of these dimensions.  |
| <b>Additional information</b>                             |   |
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