



## Syllabus

Academic Year	2021/2022
Program	Politics: Philosophy and Economics
Course	Sociology
Term	I semester
Year	1
SSD	SPS/07 - Sociologia generale
Credits	8

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	<p>At the end of the course students should be able to navigate through different sociological perspectives, link and combine them properly, and get a sense of how sociological research works.</p>
INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS	<p>Generally speaking, this course will allow students to (-) improve their critical thinking; (-) understand sociology as a scientific discipline; (-) describe the main theoretical and empirical issues within both classical and contemporary sociology; (-) be well-acquainted with a variety of sociological imaginations; (-) be prepared to attend other, more advanced or specific, sociological courses; (-) hopefully, begin to look at social reality anew and have some epiphanies about its construction.</p>
INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES	<p><b>Knowledge and understanding:</b> This course will provide key theoretical and empirical tools to understand sociology, its scope, and its importance.</p> <p><b>Applying knowledge and understanding:</b> Students will be able to make the most out of the opportunity of seeing social reality sociologically, getting familiar with a broadly applicable sociological literacy that cuts across many substantive subfields.</p> <p><b>Making judgements:</b> Students will have the means for analyzing the history of sociological thought and competently express their views on it. They will also demonstrate a thorough understanding of some of the major sociological paradigms.</p> <p><b>Communications Skills:</b> Sociological concepts, appropriate terminology, and technical terms will be carefully investigated. Students' communicative skills will be enhanced, especially in terms of their ability to deliver scientific and academic presentations.</p> <p><b>Learning skills:</b></p>

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	<p>This course will allow students to improve their critical reasoning skills and their ability to think through complex sociological problems. Furthermore, students will articulate their own views on contemporary sociological issues.</p>
Pre-requisites	None.
Course content	<p>The program is divided in three parts: a first part will be aimed at introducing the methodology of comparison in social sciences; a second part will focus on the historical reconstruction of the main categories of analysis of sociology and the relative authors who introduced and / or reworked them; the last part will focus on the political problem, in particular on the issue of relations between political power and social stratification or on the issue of formation and exchange of elites in complex societies.</p>
Reference Books	<p>There is no handbook for this course. This is supposed to give students the chance to get familiar with primary literature, reading directly the work of various authors under examination (whose study is challenging but deeply rewarding). For this reason, regular class attendance is strongly recommended (but not required); lectures are intended to help students join the dots, make connections between perspectives that seem not to be connected but actually are, form a general picture, stimulate their creative processes as well as their idiosyncratic preferences in terms of sociological theory and empirical research.</p> <p>Intuitively, “required readings” (as listed below) are for attending students; “further readings” (again, as listed below) are for students who do not attend class – in addition, of course, to required readings. Ideally, students are expected to peruse all the required readings prior to the class for which they are scheduled.</p> <p>All readings are made freely available on the Web, through learn.luiss.it platform.</p>
Teaching Methods	<p>A painstaking exegesis of texts will be paired with simplified syntheses. Standard lectures will be combined with focused debates and case study analyses.</p> <p>As a rule of thumb, online lectures will be devoted to theoretical explanations, while lectures on campus will have a more practical/interactive focus. Speaking of which, international experts and distinguished scholars will be invited on a regular/semi-weekly basis, depending on the specific author at issue. Rather than being something like keynote lectures, these situations are conceived to be extremely synergistic and participative.</p>
Assessment	<p>For those of you who will attend this course, the examination will consist of a midterm exam (which is written) and a final one (which is oral).</p> <p>The midterm exam covers content from the first part of the course and consists of 5 open-ended questions: the highest total score is 30, the minimum passing score is 18. The final, oral, exam covers material from the rest of the course. Your final grade is computed as follows: midterm score + final score ÷ 2. Students who do not take (or fail) the midterm exam, or students who want to improve their grade, can take a final oral exam on the entire program. For those of you who won’t able to attend class, the examination will consist of a single oral exam on the entire program.</p> <p>Extra credits will be systematically awarded after the “students-meet-experts events”. A few other extra credits will be offered occasionally, as a result of class activities and focused debates.</p>

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