



**Code: SPS 09**

**Credits: 9**

**Matter: Sociology of economic and labor processes**

**Main language of instruction: Italian**

**Other language of instruction: English**

### Head instructor

**Prof. Michela Luzi - [michela.luzi@unicusano.it](mailto:michela.luzi@unicusano.it)**

### Objectives

The course of Sociology of economic and labor processes aims to make the student acquire the critical ability to identify the fundamental elements of society, in particular to analyze the changes in the world of work in recent years, and consequently the figure of the worker, an individual protagonist of contemporary society, with regard to the organizational and content dimensions. The study will focus on specific themes of the sociology of economic processes (globalization, the market, money, communication, cyberspace), and concepts related to work (organized work, trade unions, Fornero reform and Brunetta reform, social capital and governance). It is possible to acquire the main keys to understanding the sociology of work, making use of concepts, methods of interpretation and tools for analyzing the main themes concerning work (reforms, flexible work, organized work, social inequalities).

### Course Structure

The course of sociology of economic and labor processes is divided into three parts. The aim of the course is the knowledge of more specific themes of economic and work processes: globalization, capitalism, the market, work, social capital and governance. Through the learning and the deepening of the overexposed key concepts it is possible to acquire, compare and monitor the key interpretations that allow to recognize, describe and deepen the functioning of the company and the socio-economic processes that characterize it.

### Competencies:

**(knowledge and understanding)** At the end of the course, the student will have demonstrated that he has acquired a greater ability to analyze economic-social

complexity, which will allow him to recognize, compare and address the difficulties that characterize contemporary society with greater awareness.

**(applying knowledge and understanding)** The study of socio-economic analysis will allow students to use knowledge in the interpretation of behavioral models and processes that characterize the complexity of the contemporary community, especially in international and globalization dynamics.

The study of social analysis and the socio-economic processes that characterize it will allow the student to develop skills in interpreting society and the behavioral models that determine the complexity of the economic world and specifically the working flexibility that characterizes the economic reality contemporary

**(ability to draw conclusions)** The course aims to provide students with some tools for analysis and interpretation of socio-economic realities, both local and global, and the consequences that these have on relationship and communication processes. Furthermore, the student will be able to identify and describe behavioral models, which characterize the complexity of the community and which are specific to current social trends and contemporary socio-economic systems and which are functional for recognizing the constants that allow sociology to structure the company it analyzes.

**(communication skills)** The student will be able to recognize and hold conversations on problems relating to socioeconomic reality. During the course, space is given to the communication process, showing how much ICT has influenced and involved the socio-economic reality in a decisive way, with the ongoing globalization process and considering that the innovative communication methods determined by technological innovations, have profoundly changed the social reality and also the working methods adopted.

**(learning skills)** At the end of the course the student will have knowledge of the fundamental notions necessary for the basic analysis of the socio-economic reality; will also have a certain methodological mastery and a clear learning ability, useful for the subsequent interpretative practice of socioeconomic dynamics.

This provides them with the skills and ability to try and monitor the study of more complex courses, which have as their object specific parts of the social reality which with the ongoing globalization process is increasingly broad and varied.

## **Syllabus**

### *2. Programme of the course:*

### **Subject 1. Economy, Sociology and Globalization**

Reciprocity, redistribution and market exchange. State and market. Capitalism. Globalisation. Definitions of globalization. Space and time. Connections and synchronizations. The crisis of the Nation-State. The historical evolution of globalization. The development of technologies. Cultural imperialism. Internet Galaxy. The globalization of the media. The economic dimension of globalization. The characteristics of contemporary society.

Compression, decoupling and abstraction. Limits and boundaries. The negative effects. International Monetary Fund. World Bank. WTO. Multinationals and non-governmental organizations. Bauman, Sen, Sennet, Stiglitz, Beck, Sassen. The virtual community. Game groups and chat lines. Virtual doubles.

### **Subject 2. Modern, Postmodern and Capitalism**

Modernity. Postmodernity. Mobility and speed. The calculating reason. The political economy. The new economic sociology. Italian economic sociology. Consumption. Immigration. The production. The market equilibrium. The price. The exchange. The coin. Consumption as a social action. Consumerism. The consumer. Eclecticism and syncretism. Decision making. Consumption online. Marx and Weber. The various evolutionary phases of capitalism. Taylorism and Fordism. Rifkin and the end of the work. The various definitions of capitalism. The end of capitalism. Max Weber. Life. The method. Social stratification. The sociology of power. The sociology of religion

### **Subject 3. Work in contemporary society**

The three phases of European migration. The substantial aspects of migration. Italian emigration. Emigration and work. The cons of immigration. Chinese immigration. Legislative Decree 276/2003. The apprenticeship. Part-time. Other contractual forms. The various types of flexibility. The consequences of flexibility. The job sharing employment contract. Differences between job sharing and part-time. The part-time employment contract. The use of short-term contracts in Italy. The Fornero reform. Labor reforms. Law 28 June 2012, n. 92. Incoming flexibility. Outgoing flexibility. Social safety nets. The Brunetta reform. Legislative decree no. 150 of 27 October 2009. Performance measurement and evaluation. The sanctions. Collective bargaining. The social capital. Historical evolution of the concept. Definition of social capital. Umbrella category. The characteristics of social capital. From social capital to governance. Governance. The meaning of the concept. Government and governance. The dialogue that anticipates decisions. Government without strength. Hierarchy and bureaucracy

### **Subject 4. The future of sociology**

The end of the work. The White Book. The social meaning of work. The sociology of work. Organized work. The industrial relations system. Trade unions and trade unionism. Participation. The job market. Employment data. Insiders and outsiders. The quality. Security. Work and family. The flexibility of women. The three types of female work activities. The difficulties of the working mother. Changes in the family. The difficulties of social forecasting. Time and forecast. Sociology and its social power. The purpose of activating society

### **Evaluation system and criteria**

The exam consists of an oral and/or written test aimed at assessing the ability to analyse and re-elaborate the concepts acquired, as well as a series of interactive activities carried out during the course.

Erasmus students are encouraged to contact the professor to agree on a customized syllabus.

Study materials (available in both Italian and English) will be provided directly by the professor if not available in the library. The oral exam can be taken in Italian.

### **Bibliography and resources**

#### *Materials to consult:*

D. Croteau, W. Hoynes, *Experience Sociology*, McGraw Hill 2012

#### *Recommended bibliography:*

Z. Bauman, *Globalization. The Human Consequences*, 2000

M. Granovetter, *Society and Economy*, 2017