



**Code:** GSPS-07/B (ex SPS/11)

**Credits:** 9

**Subject:** Legal sociology

**Main language of instruction:** Italian

**Other language of instruction:** English

## Teaching Staff

### Head instructor

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

Dr. Gianluca Ortolani - [gianluca.ortolani@unicusano.it](mailto:gianluca.ortolani@unicusano.it)

### Prerequisites

**General Sociology**

### Objectives

The course aims to provide an understanding of the socio-legal processes that involve the individual in his or her social function. Specific topics in legal sociology are explored, such as security, deviance, crime, reform, violence, and fear. By learning some fundamental concepts, students will acquire, recognize, and identify the key insights that allow them to understand and structure the functioning of society through its defining socio-legal aspects

### Competencies:

The course will enable students to develop a greater capacity for analyzing the social complexity that has led to the crisis of contemporary society. To do this, students must understand the key concepts of the discipline: society, socialization, communication, participation, and security.

By the end of the course, students will have a deeper understanding of the basic topics of legal sociology and will have acquired the ability to identify, describe, and elaborate them. Furthermore, students will become aware of being part of a socio-legal reality, characterized by elements they will be able to recognize, having understood the importance that values, institutions, norms, rules, and laws can have for the preservation of democracy and freedom.

### Syllabus

*Programme:*

**The course is organized in 4 topics.**



### **Topic 1. Society, communication and globalization**

The Sociology of Law. The topics analyzed by legal sociology. Classical sociologists: Montesquieu, Comte, Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Simmel, and Mosca. The process of socialization. Consensus. The social importance of communication. The process of globalization. Technological innovations and new modes of communication. Legal globalization. Institutions. Social needs. Social values.

### **Topic 2. Virtual communities and capitalism**

Real and virtual communities compared. The characteristics of social networks. Cybernetics and cyberspace. Cybercrime, cyberwar, cyberespionage, and cyberterrorism. The functions of cybersecurity. Young people and virtual communities. Bullying and cyberbullying. Consumption as social action. Consumerism. The decision-making process. The various definitions of capitalism. The new capitalism. The power of capitalism.

### **Topic 3. Contract and Gender issues**

Sanctions. Collective bargaining. Labor reforms. Law No. 92 of June 28, 2012. Social safety nets. Legislative Decree 276/2003. Apprenticeships. Part-time work. Other contractual arrangements. Job-sharing contracts. Flexibility in employment contracts. The social consequences of atypical employment contracts. Discrimination. Acquired gender equality. Female participation. The concept of gender. Gender mainstreaming. The Global Gender Gap Report. Female representation in various government bodies. The European Parliament. Fundamental rights. Effective equality. Gender-based violence.

### **Topic 4. Adolescents, territory and democracy**

Deviance. Different types of deviance. Juvenile justice. Different types of organized crime. New international criminal organizations. Cybersecurity and threats. Cybercrime. Territories and local development. Integration, adaptation, and working together. Values. Institutions. Green criminology. Different types of environmental crimes. Civil society. Political society. Democracy and consensus. Sovereignty. Representativeness. Great fears. Freedom and security. Community and fear.

### **Evaluation system and criteria**

The final exam consists of an in-person presentation to the examination board of a paper that explains the topics of the course and includes the following sections: introduction, main findings, conclusion, and bibliography (if sources other than the textbook have been used). The paper must be submitted by email to Prof. Michela Luzi a few days before the final exam. In the essay, the students have to

demonstrate their skills in learning, understanding, making judgements, communicating. The essay can be in English or Italian.

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**

#### *1. Materials to consult:*

D. Croteau, W. Hoynes, *Experience Sociology*, McGraw Hill, 2018 \*.

#### *2. Recommended bibliography:*

3.

N. Marres, *Digital sociology: the reinvention of social research*, Polity Press 2017 \*.

M. Ryan, *Core concepts in sociology*, Wiley, 2019 \*.

\* *Book available for temporary loan at the Unicusano university library.*