

Sociology of International Relations

Prof. Elton Kalica

Course Objectives

This course aims to equip students with critical tools to better understand the scope and intersections of two disciplines, Sociology and International Relations (IR) and to reflect on what it means to study international relations through a sociological lens. Students will be introduced to the main theoretical approaches in IR as well as critical perspectives that highlight their limits and contradictions. The teaching methodology will emphasize participation, with thematic focus groups designed to encourage discussion of assigned materials. The course will culminate in an individual research paper, to be presented to classmates in either English or Italian, and later submitted in final written form.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- identify the main schools of thought in IR analysis;
- explore connections between political and social issues in IR at the global (macro), community (meso), and individual (micro) levels;
- strengthen their ability to link abstract concepts to concrete realities and, conversely, to critically frame everyday issues within academic debates;
- engage in participatory and collaborative modes of learning and knowledge production;
- develop academic writing skills through the preparation of a research paper.

Contents

Topics addressed in the course will include:

- Sociological and international relations perspectives;
- The micro, meso, and macro dimensions in the Sociology of IR;
- Classical, postmodern, and critical IR theories;
- The role of race, gender, and class in past and contemporary challenges in the Sociology of IR;
- Transnationalism;
- Colonialism, decolonization, and postcolonial perspectives;
- Case study analysis.

Examination Methods

For attending students, the assessment consists of two components: Research paper – Students will prepare an individual paper, first discussed in class and then submitted in final form within two weeks of the chosen exam session; Oral test – A discussion with the instructor based on the research paper and its relation to the course themes. The final evaluation will be the average of the two components.

Note: Non-attending students are required to contact the professor to concord the bibliography and the examination method.

Bibliography

- Bourdieu P. (2012) In Algeria. Immagini dello sradicamento. A cura di Franz Schultheis, Christine Frisinghelli, Andrea Rapini, Carocci Editore
- Fanon, F. (2007 [1961]) – I dannati della terra, Feltrinelli.
- Lombardo E. (2020) Africa. (Neo)colonialismo, ambiente e migrazioni, Meltemi Editore
- Mamdani M. (2020) Né coloni. Né nativi, Meltemi Editore.

- Mazzei, F. (2016) Relazioni Internazionali, EGEA Editore
- Said, E. (2000 [1978]) – Orientalismo, Laterza.
- Strazzari F., (2022) Frontiera Ucraina. Guerra, geopolitiche e ordine internazionale, Il Mulino Editore

Additional references will be provided during the course.

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