



FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BOZEN
LIBERA UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLZANO
UNIVERSITÀ LIEDIA DE BULSAN

Brixen
Bressanone
Persenon

Fakultät für
Bildungswissenschaften

Facoltà di
Scienze della Formazione

Facoltà de
Scienze della Formazione

Sociology of Economic and Labour Practices A.Y. 2011/2012 – Curriculum NPO

Faculty: Faculty of Education – Bachelor in Multilingual Communication

Address: Regensburger Allee / Viale Ratisbona 16 – 39042 Brixen / Bressanone

Course Year: 3rd Year - NPO

Semester: 1st (26.09.2011 - 21.01.2012)

Exam Code: 17122

Scientific Area: SPS/09

Lecturer: Dr. Pilati Katia – non-academic teaching staff

Module: No

Credit Points: 5 CP

Total Lecture Hours: 36

Total hours of self-study and / or other individual educational activities: 89

Attendance:

Optional

Teaching Language:

English

Propaedeutic Course:

None

Course Description:

The course is intended to give a general overview over the main aspects characterizing the work environment, labour practice and development models for cities and regions. Cities and regions across the world are changing rapidly, influenced by the forces of economic and cultural globalization and by the pressures for the environment, economic and social sustainability. Most of them are re-orienting the specialization in relation to the cultural and creative industries. In the actual scenario the new economic processes related to such kind of industries need to be analyzed in order to understand dynamics between employees and firms, and the relation between the economic tissue and cities and regions.

The course covers specifically the point related the new contemporary development processes. The following aspects will be analyzed:

- Themes and sociological theories of economic behavior: economic action, economic development and modernization;
- Market as a complex institution which addresses the issues of economic, size of network, the construction of trust relationships and the nature of capitals.
- Modern forms of employment, unemployment and flexibility. The immaterial labor
- Local territory definition, cities and regions structures
- Cities and regions, development principles and models, from the industrial to the post-industrial scenario related to cultural and creative industries
- Resources, human capital, social capital, natural capital, physical capital, cultural capital, role and function in the contemporary economic scenario
- Analysis of case studies and project work

Educational Objectives – Expected Learning Outcomes:

Outcomes:

The goal of the course is to get students acquainted with the main elements related to the economic (market) and labour environment, and development models of cities and regions. The aim is to provide the opportunity to define the better development of labour strategies and the instrument to interact with the business sector and local social actors toward the definition of new economic and social opportunities related to the cultural and knowledge economy (cultural and creative industries). Thanks to example and case studies, it will be possible to analyze the dynamics of labour market and development processes of cities and regions, and acquire elements helpful in the establishment of new labour environment and economic opportunities.

Main goals:

- Getting students acquainted with labour logic and a strategic view on economic and social development models
- Introducing the knowledge economy and the fundamental role of cultural and creative industries;
- Developing tools in order to improve the preparation of students in the interaction with the labour market and the new economic processes of cities and regions

Teaching Methods:

Frontal lessons and group discussions

Teaching Format:

The lecturer will present and discuss the main concepts and topics outlined in the programme through frontal lessons. During the lectures, the articles listed in the required readings will be discussed as well. All students attending classes are expected to actively participate to the discussions, and may be asked to present the articles. To facilitate the comprehension and participation in the discussions, students are suggested to read the articles in advance.

Course material will be available on-line. More supplementary readings or any change in the programme may be supplied during the lectures or by informing students on-line.

Assessment:

- Written exam (2 open ended questions on the topics analyzed) counting for 50% of your final grade.
- Project work (50 % of your final grade).

Details on the project work

The project work consists of a written essay and can take one of the two following forms:

- You may critically present one issue related to the topics presented during the lectures. The essay will include: your research question (the question you ask should be concise and clear), a short literature review illustrating how the topic chosen has been discussed by various authors. As far as the literature review is concerned, you will start by considering the authors encountered during the lectures, and then proceed with the literature review yourself. You will also discuss any problem you may see in relation to the arguments advanced by the authors.
- You may write a short essay directly reflecting one of your prior working experiences. After identifying your research question (related to your working experience), you will try to identify the concepts that help you to interpret and explain your research question. You will first refer to the literature presented during the lectures, and then integrate it with your own literature review. You will discuss the reasons why your experience is in line or contradicts the arguments made by the authors. In addition, you may compare your experience with aspects of the case studies presented, and illustrate any similar or different dynamic. You may finally examine concepts which have not been developed in the programme and provide arguments in favor of their use.

A one paragraph plan of this project work, explaining your main ideas, will be due by January 15th, 2012. Your finished project work will be about 4-5 pgs. long (Times New Roman 12, 1.5 space) and will be due by the end of February 2012.

PROGRAMME

PART 1 ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY

Unit 1 (8h)

This unit presents the main assumptions of economic sociology and illustrates the differences vis-à-vis mainstream economics. It also presents a synthesis of the contribution to economic sociology by classical authors.

Required Readings:

- Neil Smelser and Richard Swedberg. 2005. "Introducing Economic sociology" in Smelser N. and Swedberg R. (eds.) *The Handbook of Economic Sociology Second edition*, pp. 3-25.
- Swedberg, R, Himmelstrand, U. and Brylin, G. 1987. "The Paradigm of Economic Sociology: Premises and Promises", *Theory and Society* 16:169-213 (excluded pp.194-205).
- Portes A. 2010. "The assumptions that ground the field", in Portes, A. *Economic Sociology - A systematic Inquiry*, chapter 2, pp 10-26.

Supplementary Readings:

- Swedberg, R. 1991. "Major Traditions of Economic Sociology," *Annual Review of Sociology* 17: 251-276.
- Granovetter, M. 1985. "Economic Action and Social Structure: The Problem of embeddedness". *American Journal of Sociology* 91/3: 481-510.
- Trigilia, C. 2002. "Part I: The Classics and the Sociology of Capitalism" in Trigilia, C. *Economic Sociology - State, market, and society in modern capitalism*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing. First published in Italian under the name Sociologia Economica by Il Mulino, 1998, pp 15-116.

Unit 2 (4h)

This unit presents theories on economic and social development.

Required Readings:

- Trigilia, C. 2002. "Modernization and Development of Backward Areas" in Trigilia, Carlo *Economic Sociology - State, market, and society in modern capitalism*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing. First published in Italian under the name Sociologia Economica by Il Mulino, 1998, Pp 147-165.
- Evans, Peter. 2005. "The Challenges of the 'Institutional Turn': Interdisciplinary Opportunities in Development Theory" in *The Economic Sociology of Capitalist Institutions*. Victor Nee and Richard Swedberg (eds). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

PART 2 LABOUR MARKET AND EMPLOYMENT

Unit 3 (4h)

This unit presents labour market and the main sociological approaches to understand labour markets. It also addresses the concept of informal economy

Required Readings:

- Swedberg, R. 2005. "Markets in Society" in Smelser N. and Swedberg R. (eds.) *The Handbook of Economic Sociology Second edition*, pp. 233-253.
- Portes A. and Haller W. 2005. " The informal economy" in Smelser N. and Swedberg R. (eds.) *The Handbook of Economic Sociology Second edition*, pp.403-425.

Supplementary Readings:

- Bourdieu, P. 2005. "Principles of economic anthropology" in Smelser N. and Swedberg R. (eds.) *The Handbook of Economic Sociology Second edition*, pp. 75-89.
- Fligstein, N. and Dauter, L. 2007. "The Sociology of Markets", *Annual Review of Sociology*, 33, pp:105-128

Unit 4 (4h)

This unit focuses on new forms of employment.

Required Readings:

- Kalleberg, Arne. 2000. "Nonstandard employment Relations: Part-Time, Temporary and Contract Work", *Annual Review of Sociology*, 26: 341-365.

- Vicki Smith. 1997. "New Forms of Work Organization. *Annual Review of Sociology* 23:315-39.

Supplementary Readings

- P. Barbieri, S. Scherer. 2009. "Labour Market Flexibilisation and its Consequences in Italy" in *European Sociological Review*, 3: 677-692
- Kalleberg, Arne L., Barbara F. Reskin, and Ken Hudson. 2000. "Bad Jobs in America: Standard and Nonstandard Employment Relations and Job Quality in the United States." *American Sociological Review* 65: 256-278.

PART 3 LABOUR MARKET AND EMPLOYMENT IN RELATION TO THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

Unit 5 (4h)

This unit introduces knowledge economy.

Required Readings:

- Powell, Walter W. and Kaisa Snellman. 2004. "The knowledge economy" *Annual Review of Sociology* 30:199–220
- Castells M. 2000. "Materials for an exploratory theory of the network society" *British Journal of Sociology*, 51/1: 5-24.

Supplementary Readings:

- Perrons, Diane. 2005. "*The new economy and earnings inequalities: explaining social, spatial and gender divisions in the UK and London*" London School of Economics, Gender Institute, New Working Paper Series, Issue 17.
- Hudson John. 2006. "Inequality and the Knowledge Economy: Running to Stand Still?" *Social Policy & Society* 5:2, 207–222

Unit 6 (4h)

This unit presents an overview of creative cities, forms of capital and the relationship between cultural capital and the transformation of the local territory.

Required Readings:

- Scott, Allen J., 2006. "Creative cities: conceptual issues and policy questions" *Journal of Urban Affairs* 28/1: 1-17.
- Pratt, A.C. 2008. "Creative cities: the cultural industries and the creative class", *Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography* 90/2: 107–117.
- Bourdieu, P. 1986. "The Forms of Capital." In *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education*. Edited by John G. Richardson.

Supplementary Readings:

- Peck, Jamie. 2005. "Struggling with the Creative Class" *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 2005 29.4: 740–770
- Heebels, b. And van Aalst, I. (2010): "Creative clusters in Berlin: entrepreneurship and the quality of place in Prenzlauer Berg and Kreuzberg", *Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography* 92 (4): 347–363.

Unit 7 (8h)

This unit presents employment in relation to creative work and presents specific case studies.

Required Readings:

- Perrons, Diane. 2003. "The New Economy and the Work-life Balance: Conceptual Explorations and a Case Study of New Media". *Gender, Work and Organization* 10/1: 65-93.
- Ross, Andrew. 2008. "The New Geography of Work: Power to the Precarious?" *Theory, Culture and Society*, vol. 25, no. 7-8, pp. 31-49
- Gill, Rosalind; Pratt, Andy. 2008. "In the Social Factory?: Immaterial Labour, Precariousness and Cultural Work" *Theory, Culture & Society*, vol. 25, no. 7-8, pp. 1-30, Dec. 2008
- Hesmondhalgh, David; Baker, Sarah. 2008. "Creative Work and Emotional Labour in the Television Industry", *Theory, Culture & Society*, vol. 25, no. 7-8, pp. 97-118.