DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Master's Degree in Sociology
Academic Year 2017/2018 - 1° Year

TEORIA SOCIOLOGICA E MODELLI SOCIOLOGICI DELLA COMPLESSITÀ
12 CFU - 1° and 2° Semester

Teaching Staff

ROBERTO VIGNERA - Module The contemporary sociological theory - SPS/07 - 6 CFU
  Email: vignera@unic.it
  Office: Palazzo Reburdone via Vittorio Emanuele 8, 95131 Catania
  Phone: 095 70305255
  Office Hours: Lunedì e Mercoledì 9:30-11:30; per appuntamento tutti gli altri giorni

ROSALIA CONDORELLI - Module Sociological Analysis of Complex Systems - SPS/07 - 6 CFU
  Email: rcondor@unic.it
  Office: Palazzo Reburdone, via Vittorio Emanuele, 8 - 95130 Catania
  Phone: 095-70305256
  Office Hours: martedì dalle 10,00 alle 12,00; giovedì dalle 10,00 alle 12,00, previa e-mail

DETAILED COURSE CONTENT

- The contemporary sociological theory
  The completion of the training process devoted to General Sociology will be inspired by some considerations made at the end of the Course of History of Sociological Thinking. In the epilogue notes devoted to classical epigones, in fact, it has been announced, as a premise, some of those issues that would become the fundamental conceptual coordinates of contemporary sociological theorists. The specific contents of the first course module will therefore be:

  - The biological metaphor: functionalism and neo-functionalism;
  - The enigma of everyday life: symbolic interactionism, ethnomethodology and dramaturgical approach;
  - The economic man invasion: from rational choice theory to the new institutionalism;
  - Giddens's theory of modernity;
  - The empirical turning point in contemporary social theory;
  - Complexity and risk society;
  - Identity and modernization.
Sociological Analysis of Complex Systems

The study of Nonlinear Complex System Theory is divided into three sections. The first section relates to the reconstruction of the epistemological debate which questioned the Newtonian-Laplacian classical scientific conception and affirmed the new paradigm of complexity and chaos. It reflects on the distinctive traits, possibilities and limits of Complexity and Chaos Theory, taking into proper account some critical aspects which were emphasized on these issues in recent decades. The second section explores the impact of complexity and chaos paradigm in the field of contemporary sociology, through a reflection on the redefinition of classical sociological problems which is matured in the light of its distinctive categories. The last section regards the study of tools by which complex systems can be analyzed. In particular, it regards the modelling of social processes by non-linear equation models (specifically the Logistic model and its derivatives, and the Lotka-Volterra model) and their application to different fields of social sciences (sociology, economics, political science, psychology, competitive international relations and competition electoral studies).

TEXTBOOK INFORMATION

- **The contemporary sociological theory**

- **Sociological Analysis of Complex Systems**
  Testo 5. Horgan J., La fine della scienza, Adelphi, Milano 2015, Cap.8. La fine della Complessità, pp.293-244.