



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore

Communication and Education for Inclusion

PROF. MADDALENA COLOMBO

COURSE DESCRIPTION

At the crossroad between Sociology of inclusion & Sociology of education, the course develops the notion of “inclusive education” as a social policy. The transformation of the public education system under the pressure of polycentrism and marketization goes together with the change in relationships in any sphere of both public and private life. Schools and out-of-school agents of socialisation are requested to become inclusive, by reinforcing their educational offer in terms of: proximity, accessibility, equal and individualised treatment. The course aims at analysing, in a comparative manner, the public policy of inclusive education in a selected number of Eu countries, with reference to the EASIE (European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education) guidelines. Particular attention will be paid to Italy. The analytic frame will include: values, purposes and priorities; normative framework; targets; measures and implementors of inclusive education policies.

Subtopics:

- policies against school dropout;
- anti-racist and de-segregation measures for multi-ethnic schools (lecture by Gilardoni Guia);
- guidelines to enhance school-family connections in case of vulnerable students (Lecture by Mesa Diego);
- governance of religious diversity in schools (Lecture by Giulia Mezzetti);
- emergency education for refugees (Lecture by Joy Paone).

PREREQUISITES

A background in Sociology of Education may prove helpful, but it is not compulsory.

METHOD OF TEACHING

Lectures, Open and Guided discussions, Seminars.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students have to comply with the following requirements:

- Students are expected to regularly attend class sessions and actively contribute to in-class debate.
- Students are expected to study the assigned course readings in preparation of the final exam.
- Students will have to take a written exam, at the end of the teaching period (open questions)
- Students are required to do a written assignment (a 3-5 pages text) on a course-related subtopic, before the final exam, according to given guidelines.

CREDITS

5 ECTS (30 CONTACT HOURS)

GRADING

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| Attendance and Class participation | 20% of final grade |
| Individual or Group assignment | 30% of final grade |
| Final Written test | 50% of final grade |

COURSE READINGS AND MATERIALS

All the readings will be available in a course pack and the lecturer's slides will be available on Blackboard.
Reference texts:



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Colombo M., Gilardoni G. (Eds.), Intercultural Issues and Concepts A Multi-Disciplinary Glossary, Brussels: Peter Lang, 2021

D'Alessio S., Inclusive Education in Italy. A Critical Analysis of the Policy of Integrazione Scolastica, Rotterdam: Sense Publ., 2011.

EASIE (European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education), 2021/2022 School Year Dataset Cross-country Report, Odense Denmark, 2024.

INSTRUCTOR BIO

Maddalena Colombo is Full Professor in Sociology of Education at the Catholic University of Milan. Her research focuses on socialization processes and supply, education systems, impacts of migration in schools and the curriculum, social changes in teachers' role; intercultural competencies and local impacts of migration processes. She is part of several international research teams on sociology of education.

E-MAIL ADDRESS

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