



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Organizzazione del Territorio

1920-3-E1601N079

Learning objectives

The course introduces and examines the main concepts and approaches of urban sociology and their contribution to understanding the contemporary global world. It aims to provide both theoretical and empirical tools to observe, describe and critically analyse social phenomena in space and to identify the main mechanisms that generate them. Particular emphasis will be devoted to the exploration of the relationship between space and economic processes, considering the main processes of globalization.

In line with a critical approach, in particular, simplistic explanations or celebratory tones will be rejected, while complex explanations, which problematize reality, are favoured, emphasizing differences, critical voices and different points of view.

At the end of the course, students will be able to describe the main sociological theories and the debates on the city and space, to reflect on the main spatial dynamics of contemporary society and to confront with the relationship between economic processes and space.{mlang en} {mlang}

Students will also develop the ability to observe society with a focused and curious gaze, and will be able to raise new questions and give themselves independent answers on what is happening around them, with particular attention to the location of phenomena and, in general, to their relationship with the space.

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Contents

The relationships between social phenomena and territory are the main focus of the course, which will be centred on the spatial implications of social dynamics, on the multiplicity of actors, differences, cultures, needs and demands that are generated in the space. Moreover, the spatial dynamics of economic processes will be observed, focusing on the global transformations, on the dynamics of spatialization of economic activities, on the local development strategies for cities.

In the first part of the course the main themes of urban and territorial sociology are addressed, while in the second the forms of spatialization of economic forms are investigated.

Detailed program

In the first part, the course deals primarily with the main issues of the city, its transformations and the sociological focus to space. The main traditions within urban sociology will be presented, both in their original formulations and, above all, in their most contemporary forms. Similarly, the debate on the definition of the city is offered, from the early stages to the most recent theories of the discipline. The city in particular, and the space in general, is then observed by a manifold point of view: the relationship between the city and the economy will be exposed (the issue will be deepened in the second part of the course), to then move on to the discussion of the government of cities and regions and conflicts that can be generated. Policies will be the focus of analysis, with an emphasis on policies for the local development of cities and regions. The city as a cultural phenomenon will be the topic that follows, drawing in particular on theories developed within the most critical urban studies; finally, the course deals with the environment and its multiple relationships with social dynamics. This first part concludes with a theoretical discussion and proposal about a spatial sociology.

In the second part of the course the topic of spatialization of economic forms is examined, in particular observing four main issues: the location of economic activities in space (districts, clusters, innovative neighbourhoods, ...); the relationship between culture and economy and the spatial forms of this relationship; social innovation; new urban economies.

Summary.

First part: the sociological analysis of the city; evolution of the urban phenomenon; economy and urban society; the city, conflicts, the government; urban policies; the city, a cultural phenomenon; the urban space and the environment; towards a spatial sociology.

Second part: From the Fordist city to the contemporary city; the spatialization of economic activities in cities and regions; rise and spatialization of the cultural economy and creative industries; social innovation, local territories and communities; new urban economies and urban policies for local development.

Prerequisites

No prerequisites requested

Teaching methods

Teaching is based on lectures and classroom exercises in which students are encouraged to engage discussion and develop a critically interpretation.

The teacher uses slides that are shared with students and students. On slides, links to websites and in-depth material are often available (internet pages, films, documentaries, ...)

Assessment methods

CHANGES DUE TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCES

Assesment in June, July and September will be in ORAL form, via WEBEX platform.

Students will demonstrate their knowledge and comprehension about the course themes and will be able to develop a autonomous reasoning.

Attending students (those who made a presentation during classes and succeeded in developing a written work): oral exam is about class contents, A. Mela handbook and on-line material uploaded on the platform.

Not- attending students: oral exam is about A. Mela handbook, A. Scott book and on-line material uploaded on the platform

The evaluation is diversified between attending and not attending students.

For attending students: presentation of a group-work in class, followed by an individual oral discussion ~~written test~~. The assessment on group work contributes to 50% of the overall assessment. In detail, the group work (which can be a discussion paper of an empirical case, or the presentation of the theoretical debate on a specific topic, ...) will be defined during the first two weeks of the course, in agreement with the attending students. During the exam, attending students are then examined in oral ~~written~~-form on the contents of the course (for the other 50% of the evaluation). ~~For attending students, the written exam (with the possibility of an oral exam) consists of 2 questions (one relating to the first part of the course and one relating to the second part) to be answered in an hour.~~

For non-attending students: final oral examination ~~written exam~~ (with the possibility of an oral exam) ~~with open-ended questions. In the written test the students will have two hours to answer four questions concerning the contents of the texts adopted and the material uploaded on the e-learning platform. Of the four questions, two are related to Mela's text, a question is inherent to Scott's text, and a question concerns the content of the e-learning platform.~~

In general, for all students, the assessment takes into account the knowledge of the topics of the course and the relative bibliography, the property of language and the critical-interpretative capacity.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

IN CASE BOOKS ARE DIFFICULT TO FIND, PLEASE CONTACT THE TEACHER

A. Mela, *Sociologia delle città*, Carocci, Roma, 2006

A. J. Scott, *Social Economy of the Metropolis: Cognitive-Cultural Capitalism and the Global Resurgence of Cities*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2008

Additional material will be uploaded on the e-learning platform
