



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Logic and Method of Comparative Research in Social Sciences

2021-1-F8802N007

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#### Learning objectives

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#### Contents

The course is divided into three parts. The first part will be dedicated to presenting the characteristics, aims and methodological problems of comparative analysis in the social sciences. Particular attention will be given to analyse and discuss aspects of similarity and difference with the logic of case studies. In the third part, in addition to the discussion of some readings, there will be exercises with students in order to prepare a paper that will be subject to final evaluation.

#### Detailed program

#### Calendar of lessons and topics discussed:

7/10 Presentation of the course and exercises. Comparison in social sciences.

9/10 Comparison in social sciences: Durkheim, Weber, Tocqueville.

14/10 Nature and aims of the comparison.

16/10 The forms and functions of the comparison.

21/10 Exercise (discussion and approach of the final paper).

23/10 Variable-oriented approach.

28/10 Exercise (discussion and formulation of the final paper).

30/10 Case Oriented Approach.

4/11 Exercise (discussion and drafting of the final paper).

6/11 The methodological problems of comparison.

11/11 Exercise (discussion and drafting of the final paper).

13/11 Strategy for similar and dissimilar cases.

18/11 Exercise (debate and drafting of the final report).

20/11 Presentation and discussion of empirical comparative research.

25/11 Exercise (debate and drafting of the final report).

27/11 Presentation and debate on empirical comparative research.

2/12 Presentation and final evaluation of papers.

4/12 Presentation and final evaluation of papers.

## **Prerequisites**

No prerequisites

## **Teaching methods**

In the Covid-19 emergency period the lessons will be held in mixed mode: partial presence and asynchronous video-recorded lessons.

## **Assessment methods**

For students who follow the lessons on a remote basis, there are discussions about the readings and the presentation (always on a remote basis) of a final paper which is the exam . Please note that in the Covid-19 emergency period the exams will be telematic only. They will be conducted using the WebEx platform and the e-learning page of the teaching will contain a public link to access the exam for possible virtual spectators.

## **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

The reference texts for the examination are all the readings uploaded to the e-learning platform.

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