



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Tourism and Local Development

2021-1-F4901N105

Learning objectives

The course aims to provide students with the theoretical-conceptual and design tools to understand and analyse the complex relationship between tourist attractiveness of a territory and the impacts, in terms of local development, that it generates. These tools will also be useful for planning of local development strategies through tourism.

Tourism is undoubtedly a very important sector for the economy of most countries, but how can this be reconciled with the development of cities and regions? The course explores the relationship between tourism, economic growth and local development: the latter will be understood not as a monolithic path of an exclusively economic nature, but as a process composed of many venues, which are intertwined with each other and which bring a context, and the people who live there, with better living conditions, for example allowing to have more opportunities, to be more educated and better trained, healthier and so on. All this, without, of course, preventing future generations from doing the same. The Nobel Prize Amartya Sen defines local development as a qualitative increase in the capacity of the territory to act, react, plan and manage complex situations. Clearly, local development is not disconnected from a territory's ability to make economies, but local development and economic growth are not synonymous. The local development strategies related to tourism, and the policies connected to them, must therefore be observed in their ability to lead not only to an increase in the tourist attractiveness of a territory, but to the real impact they generate at the local level.

Contents

The course will explore the dynamic between tourism, economic growth and local development both at a theoretical level and examining different case studies and contexts, ranging from urban tourism to mountain communities; from the development of internal areas to the use of culture to relaunch territories.

In the analysis of the effects of tourism on local development, the problems that hinder a full development of the territories will also be examined: environmental issues, but also linked to economic sustainability, or to cultural sustainability.

Detailed program

The course is organized into two main parts. In the first, introductory, the key concepts that guide the analysis of the relationship between tourism and territorial development are discussed. The second part deals with empirical themes and case studies.

First part

Second part

A series of case studies will be examined to understand the impact of tourism on regions, such as, for example, the impact of urban tourism on the city and, in particular, on the real estate market and on the quality of the life; the effects of cultural tourism on local artistic production; the idea of tourism as an engine for the development of internal areas; sustainable tourism in mountain areas. The case studies and thematic discussions will also be chosen on the basis of the personal and professional interests of students

Prerequisites

No specific requirements but an adequate knowledge of English

Teaching methods

Teaching is based on both remote asynchronous (recorded) and synchronous lessons (the latter will be delivered via the Webex platform in video conference with the students, or, if conditions allow, they will be in classroom, together with students, but always and in any case recorded to allow participation to anyone). In particular, to encourage discussion, regular studying and socializing, there will be moments of discussion on the topics of the course at regular intervals: students will manage their study and learning moments autonomously through video lessons, but they will have scheduled occasions of discussion with the class and teachers.

The course will be delivered in English, but particular attention will be dedicated to the understanding of the contents, focusing on the most important concepts and providing, if necessary, in-depth material also in Italian.

Group exercises will also be proposed with the aim of making the concepts discussed more comprehensible and to

familiarize students with the topic; they also represent a useful social tool and encourage horizontal learning.

Assessment methods

The assessment will take place through an interview to verify the knowledge of the course contents, the reference texts and the teaching materials provided via e-learning platform.

Students who are more assiduously participating in the lessons in synchrony are invited to produce a group paper (it can be a research project, or the analysis of a case study, or the presentation of the theoretical debate around to a theme). The paper must be agreed with the teachers, will be presented in the final weeks of the course and forms an integral part of the overall assessment.

In general, for all students, the assessment takes into account the knowledge of the topics of the course and the related bibliography, the ownership of language and the critical-interpretative skill.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Tourism and Development: Concepts and Issues

2nd edition

Edited by: Richard Sharpley, David J. Telfer

published year: 2014

Channel View publisher

Selection compulsory for the exam: introduction, chapters 1-2-3-5-6-9, conclusion

The reading materials stored under the title "Mandatory papers" have to be studied for the final exam
