UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Social Capital and Local Socioeconomic Systems

2122-2-F8802N023

Learning objectives

The course aims to provide the fundamental concepts for the discussion and analysis of social capital, focussing on its role in understanding individual strategies and development paths of local socio-economic systems. Analysis of literature and empirical cases will enable the student to recognize the contribution of sociology in the study of the networks of people and organizations that underpin territorial development.

Contents

Concepts and theories about social capital, trust, social and organizational networks.

Role of social capital and inter-organizational networks in different local production systems

Detailed program

The course consists of two parts. The first one will deal with the following topics:

- Introduction to Social Capital
- James Coleman: trust and Social Capital
- Social Capital and Network Analysis (applications of Social Network Analysis)

In the second part, we will discuss the relations between social capital and the development of local production systems, focussing on inter-organizational networks:

- Definitions of organizational networks
- Framework for the Analysis of organizational networks
- Empirical cases of inter-organizational networks' analysis

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of sociology

Teaching methods

Set of lectures and workshops; case studies discussion and presentations.

Assessment methods

Presentations and discussions of theoretical and empirical papers, essays, case studies and written tests.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

- Coleman J. (1990) *Foundation od Social Theory* (VIII, XII e XXI), Harvard, Harvard University Press.
- Crouch, C., Le Galès P., Trigilia C., Voelzkow H. (2000) Local Production Systems in Europe, Oxford, Oxford University Press. (introduction)
- Powell (1990) Neither Market nor Hierarchy. Network Forms of Organization, in “Research in Organizational Behavior”, vol. 12.

A reading list will be available on the e-learning webpage.

Erasmus students are asked to contact me by email to discuss textbooks and reading materials