UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Urban Political Geography

2122-2-F8802N009

Learning objectives

To learn to reflect on the complex meaning of the concept of "territory" as a relational network and to develop a critical ability to read political geography, in particular with regard to the urban environment and the coexistence, within the urban environment, between human beings and other animals. Learn to deconstruct the representations of geographical objects offered by popular culture.

Contents

A brief introduction to the theoretical contents of the discipline will be followed by a critical analysis of the meta-geographies and geographical categories of contemporary geopolitical discourse. Then, the city will be analyzed as a political space and as a symbolic landscape. Particular attention will be paid to the analysis of the city in popular geopolitics and to the representation of the relationship between humans and animals in the urban environment.

Detailed program

The course is divided into three parts; the first includes an introduction to "critical geopolitics" and a critical reinterpretation of the disciplinary tradition. The second focuses on the analysis of the city as a public space in which political activity is carried out, as a symbolic landscape and as a political actor. The third, of an applied nature, is centred on the vision and reading of texts of popular geopolitics, of different origins.

Prerequisites

none

Teaching methods

asynchronous lectures, online seminars

Assessment methods

oral test, or, alternatively, discussion related to the critical analysis of one or more texts of popular culture (reserved to students who have taken all the lessons)

Textbooks and Reading Materials

1) E. dell’Agnese, “Geografia politica critica”, Milano, Guerini, 2005

2) E. dell’Agnese, “Paesaggi ed eroi. Cinema, nazione, geopolitica”, Torino, Utet, (2009) OPPURE 2b) F. Amato, E. dell’Agnese, a cura di, “Schermi americani. Geografia e geopolitica degli Stati Uniti nelle serie televisive”, Unicopli, 2014

Other texts, related to the role of animals in urban space will be provided by the teacher