UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Development and Organizations (blended)

2223-3-E1601N076

Learning objectives

The course provides with theoretical and methodological tools with the aim of: (1) analyzing the topic of the economic development with a sociological approach; (2) understanding and analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of the main theoretical approaches to the so-called underdevelopment; (3) understanding the recent debate on both “the end of development” and the “sustainable development”; (4) Understanding and analyzing the theories of development within more recent phenomena that characterize the economy and the territories, such as the economic globalization and the global value chains.

Contents

The course deals with the topic of the economic development, with a sociological approach. It shows the main theoretical approaches to the socio-economic development, since the debate on modernization. In this field, the strengths and the weaknesses of the main theories of development are described. Moreover, the attention is focused on the recent debate on sustainable development and alternatives to development.
In the second part of the course the theme of global value chains will be explored, with the aim of understanding what they are, and what role they play in defining transnational and local development paths.

Detailed program

The course is arranged in two parts. The first part describes the main theoretical approaches to the economic development, on which the debate on the modernization has been built. The attention is focused on the problem of “underdevelopment”, and to the main solutions that many countries carried out. In this section, the main features of theories such as those of modernization and of dependency, as well as approaches such as those of the basic needs and of the self-reliance are described, analyzed and discussed. The analysis therefore focuses on some of

the most recent approaches to development, with the aim of highlighting elements of continuity and novelty with respect to the development ideas that characterized the debate in the previous years.
The second part of the course focuses on the most recent debate on the processes of economic globalization and global value chains (GVC). In this field, through the study of some concrete cases, the actors composing these chains are described and analyzed, as well as the forms of the GVC and their role in the development processes both at the transnational level and at the local level.

Prerequisites

Any prerequisites are not needed.

Teaching methods

Participation in the course is possible in two ways: (1) blended-learning mode; (2) 'not attending' mode. Those who decide to follow the course in blended-learning mode will have to participate in the lessons regularly and to participate in individual activities and group works within the times proposed by the teacher. The blended-learning and 'non-attending' modes envisage different evaluation systems.

Assessment methods

'Non-attending' mode: Oral exam. The evaluation will consider the correctness of the answers, the precision, the ownership of language and the argumentative effectiveness in order to verify the learning and understanding of the contents of the exam program. Please note that the exam program includes the texts indicated in the 'Reference texts' section. The lessons and activities proposed on the elearning platform will touch only part of the entire exam program; they are therefore intended as supplementary didactic material.

'Blended learning' mode. Students who decide to follow the course in 'blended-learning' mode will be assessed with reference to the following activities: group works, open and closed questions relating to the activities to be carried out individually on the e-learning platform. Group works involve the elaboration and discussion of written texts.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Books:

- Bottazzi G. (2009). Sociologia dello sviluppo. Bari-Roma: Laterza.

- Greco L. (2016). Capitalismo e sviluppo delle catene globali del valore. Roma: Carocci.

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | ZERO HUNGER | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | REDUCED INEQUALITIES