UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Territorial Organization

2223-3-E1601N079

Learning objectives

Organizational studies have made it clear now that organizations do not act in a vacuum, but are inserted in a specific context, within which they develop complex relationships. The course aims to explore the different elements that characterize the context, using the theoretical framework provided by the urban studies. In other words, if the science of organizations looks at the relationship between context and organization *on the side of organizations*, this course focuses *on the context*, providing the conceptual framework necessary to explore, for example, the social and economic structure of the region where an organization is places; cultural resources, traditions, history of the place available to organizations; the local policies that govern its actions and so on. The course aims to provide the theoretical and methodological tools to observe, describe, analyse social phenomena in space and to identify the mechanisms that generate them.

At the end of the course, students will be able to describe the main sociological theories and the debates on the city and space, to reflect on the main spatial dynamics of contemporary society and to confront with the relationship between economic processes and space.

Students will also develop the ability to observe society with a focused and curious gaze, and will be able to raise new questions and give themselves independent answers on what is happening around them, with particular attention to the location of economic phenomena and to their relationship with the space.

Contents

The course focuses on the mechanisms underlying the spatialisation of social phenomena in relation to organizations: economic and regulatory processes, multiplicity of actors, differences, cultures, needs and demands that are generated in space. In particular, the spatial dynamics of economic processes will be observed, focusing on the transformations brought about by globalization, on the spatialisation of economic activities, on the development models that gradually emerge for cities and regions in the contemporary world.

The course is organized in two parts; in the first, shorter and introductory, the main themes of urban studies are presented, in order to build a vocabulary necessary to investigate the spatialisation processes of economic forms; the second part, more articulated, explores, through examples and case studies, a series of questions, crucial to understand the main spatial dynamics of economic activities and their complex relationship with organizations.

Detailed program

First part (introduction to the concepts of the urban and regional studies)

- The urban question
- Economic structure
- Social structure
- Culture and cities
- Policies and regulatory framework

Second part (spatial dynamics of economic activities). This part focuses on four topics of particular relevance for the Milan area:

- Globalization and spatialisation of the economy: effects of globalization on the local society; socio-spatial dynamics of districts and clusters; the competitiveness of cities and the effects on social cohesion policies
- The "new" urban economies: the platform economy and links with the urban space, the new working spaces (coworking and shared labs), the urban manufacturing
- The economy linked to culture: cultural and creative industries; urban tourism; marketing and the image of the city
- Social innovation and its implications in local politics and economy

Prerequisites

No specific requirements; as for the other courses in the third year, statistics is a compulsory exam.

Teaching methods

If possible, teaching will be offered in classroom, off-line, even with seminars given by experts, practictioners, policy-makers. Also, if possible, tours outside the university campus will be organised. Moreover, to encourage discussion, regular studying and socializing, there will be moments of discussion on the topics of the course

Autonomous exercises and works will also be proposed, which will be carried out in groups, in order to understand better urban and regional studies methods and concepts. Exercises also represent a useful tool for socializing and horizontal learning among students.

Assessment methods

Assessment is diversified in two ways:

a) Learning programme with exercises and group works (for attending students). Class presentation and an oral exam in which knowledge on the entire course program and bibliographic material will be tested.

b) Learning programme without exercises and group works. Students, in a independent way, will study texbooks and reading materials, materials available on the e-learning environment, but they will NOT developed any other exercises or group work. The final assessment is done through an oral exam to verify the learning and comprehension of the course contents, reference texts and teaching materials provided by the teachers.

In general, for all students, the assessment takes into account the knowledge of the topics of the course and the relative bibliography, the property of language and the critical-interpretative capacity.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

A) Learning programme with exercises and group works:

1. Lectures content (lectures slides will be made available on the e-lerning page)
2. Reading of 5 papers available on the e-learning page (inthe section “Articoli scientifici per esame”)
3. Reading of a pair of texts, (a textbook and a novel)
   a. Greenfield, A. "Tecnologie Radicali" & Eggers, D. "Il cerchio"
   b. A. Mela "La città postmoderna" & Adichie, C.N. "Americanah"
   c. Viesti, G. "Centri e periferie" (Selezione) & Rea, E. "La dismissione"
   d. Semi, G. "Gentrification: tutte le città come Disneyland" & Lethem, J. "La fortezza della solitudine
   e. Forgacs, D. "L'industrializzazione della cultura italiana (introduzione, cap. II, cap. V, cap. VI, cap. VII, cap. VIII) & Chabon, M. "Le fantastiche avventure di Kavalier e Clay"

Recommended reading: "Turn Your Literature Review Into An Argument", by Robert Thomas, Sage publisher.

B) Learning programme without exercises and group works

a. Ciaffi, D., Crivello, S., A. Mela, Le città contemporanee. Prospettive sociologiche, Carocci, Roma, 2020 or, (e-book available in the library of the University) Orum, A. M., Chen, X., & Paulsen, K. E. (2013). *Introduction to cities: how place and space shape human experience* Wiley-Blackwell (only first, second and third section of the book - until page 230)

2. Reading of 5 papers available on the e-learning page (inthe section “Articoli scientifici per esame”)
3. Reading of a pair of texts, (a textbook and a novel)
   a. Greenfield, A. "Tecnologie Radicali" & Eggers, D. "Il cerchio"
   b. A. Mela "La città postmoderna" & Adichie, C.N. "Americanah"
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Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES