UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Social Capital and Local Socioeconomic Systems

2223-2-F8802N023

Learning objectives

The course aims to provide students with the necessary skills to acknowledge the role of social capital in specific areas of economic life.
The objectives of the course are:

- introduce and articulate the reflections around the concept of social capital (in Italy and abroad)
- identify the fields of application of the concept in some areas of the sociology of labour and local development
- provide basic tools for the analysis of organisational networks and Network Analysis

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 (Bourdieu, Putnam)
- 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

Some lessons will be devoted to a workshop activity introducing the use of network analysis software.
At the end of the course, a semi-public presentation of the results of the activities is planned.

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of sociology

Teaching methods

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

Assessment methods

The final exam consists of an essay, developed on the basis of the texts discussed in class, which can be consulted during the exam.
The following dimensions will be assessed:

- Knowledge and understanding of the topics
- Capacity for critical reworking of information
- Internal coherence of the essay (introduction-development-conclusions)
- Formal accuracy, including bibliographical references

Attending students will present research papers on scientific articles and participate in individual and group exercises during the course. All these activities will contribute to the final assessment.

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

Sustainable Development Goals

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES