UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Geography (blended)

2223-2-F0101R018

Course title

Sense of place: orientation and disorientation

Topics and course structure

The course aims to develop in students the possibility to acquire knowledge and understanding of territorial practices.It will examine, from a critical point of view, some key terms of contemporary geographical discourse (place, space, territory, environment, sustainability, landscape, heritage, gender), with the aim of communicating the richness and variety of the discipline, revealing its nature and the possibility to trace interdisciplinary connections in relation to territorial planning. In line with the "spatial turning point" common to social sciences and cultural studies, students will confront the geographical view of environmental, cultural, social and political phenomena of the contemporary world.

The sense of place and the geographies of disorientation, with particular reference to the “place" Bicocca, are the key themes of the course.

The "sense of place" is to be understood as a fundamental category to understand central aspects of the contemporary world. The dynamics of spatial orientation/disorientation concern, among other things, the complex open questions of our relationship with technology, as well as the understanding of territorial practices. Particular emphasis will be placed on the experience of the pandemic, the sense of disorientation it may have caused in many of us and the consequent search for new practices of re-orientation in our daily lives. We will consider the theme of difference and gender geography in relation to the sense of place, orientation and disorientation. The course also aims to introduce students to the basic elements of cartography, in their historical, political and methodological dimension, and to approach them, with a critical approach, to cartographic reading and language (maps, participatory cartography). Particular emphasis will be given to the concept of mental maps and the construction of images of places. The uprooted dwelling of migrants will be explored through the reading of the mental maps they make.

Objectives

The main aim of the course is to introduce students to the theoretical and methodological specificities of human geography in connection with other fields of knowledge. Through online and synchronous activities, students will learn to use the concepts and themes of human geography, to apply the models proposed to the study of socio-spatial processes and territory. The introduction to a first reading of the geographical map and the use of mental maps are proposed as extremely useful tools also in view of the thesis work and as support to the research activities carried out by the candidates.

Methodologies

The course will be delivered in blended learning mode.

Through the e-learning platform, students will be involved in the discussion of scientific articles; oral expositions and written papers; field activities, using the resources that will be prepared in the course page on the University platform https://elearning.unimib.it.

Online interaction will be used to manage activities with web-conferences, chats, forums, in order to promote active learning and develop skills in oral presentations with audio-video support and group discussions.

Online and offline teaching materials

D. Massey, 1991, *A global Sense of Place,*

http://www.aughty.org/pdf/global_sense_place.pdf

Harald Bauder, Salvatore Engel-di Mauro, *Critical Geographies: A Collection of Readings*, Praxis (e)Press, 2008

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/266022884_Critical_Geographies_A_Collection_of_Readings

Programme and references for attending students

Attending students are required to participate in synchronous and blended learning activities, group activities; in addition, the realisation and presentation of a group PPT and the single oral presentation of a 3-page paper on The sense of place: orientation, disorientation.

Reference texts:

1. dell'Agnese E. (a cura di) *Geo-grafia. Strumenti e parole*, Milano, Unicopli, 2009
2. Schmidt di Friedberg M., *Geographies of Disorientation*, London, Routledge, 2017
3. Pezzoni N. *La città sradicata. L'idea di città attraverso lo sguardo e il segno dell'altro*, Milano, O barra O Edizioni, 2020
4. D. Massey, 1991, *A global Sense of Place*, http://www.aughty.org/pdf/global_sense_place.pdf

Programme and references for non-attending students

Reference texts:

1. dell'Agnese E. (a cura di) *Geo-grafia. Strumenti e parole*, Milano, Unicopli, 2009
2. Schmidt di Friedberg M., *Geographies of Disorientation*, London, Routledge, 2017
3. Pezzoni N. *La città sradicata. L'idea di città attraverso lo sguardo e il segno dell'altro*, Milano, O barra O Edizioni, 2020
4. D. Massey, 1991, *A global Sense of Place*, http://www.aughty.org/pdf/global_sense_place.pdf

In order to facilitate students who cannot be physically present at the University:

- text 1. (dell'Agnese E., Ed.) can be replaced with the e-book D. *Massey*, P. Jess (Ed.) *Luoghi*, *culture* e *globalizzazione,* UTET Università, 2001, available online in the library,

- text 3. (Pezzoni N.) can be replaced with 8 articles of your choice from the e-book:

Harald Bauder, Salvatore Engel-di Mauro, *Critical Geographies: A Collection of Readings*, Praxis (e)Press, 2008

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/266022884_Critical_Geographies_A_Collection_of_Readings

Assessment methods

For attending students, final examination with oral interview, aimed at verifying the knowledge acquired through the critical study of the texts included in the syllabus and the work done in the classroom. The oral examination is based on a discussion of the lectures and texts in the syllabus. Attending students will discuss a written work on *Sense of place: orientation and disorientation* in the exam.
For non-frequenting students, final exam with oral interview. The oral interview consists of verifying the knowledge of the materials in the bibliography in order to enable non-attending students to acquire skills on topics addressed by the lecturer through the lectures and classroom discussions.
Incoming Erasmus students will be provided with an alternative bibliography in English (or other language) and will be given the opportunity to take the examination in a language other than Italian.

Office hours

From Monday to Friday, by appointment by e-mail

marcella.schmidt@unimib.it

Programme validity

Programs are valid two academic years

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | CLIMATE ACTION