



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Social Demography, Developing Countries

2324-3-E4102B025

Learning objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to discuss and analyze the factors that influence the demographic phenomena across geographical areas. In particular, they can:

- discuss the theories explaining the demographic phenomena and their dynamics
- describe the demographic evolution of a country
- analyze the links between demographic phenomena and social factors by choosing suitable methods for analysis, interpreting results, and communicating main findings - describe the sustainable development goals and evaluate their progress using suitable indicators

Contents

The course aims to deepen knowledge of the theories explaining the past and contemporary demographic dynamics and statistical methods to analyze the causes and consequences of the demographic phenomena. After discussing the meaning and criticism of the term developing countries (a term that will fall into disuse in the next decade), we will consider the following topics: the demographic transition, the relationship between population and resources, fertility and family planning, and sustainable development goals. We will illustrate the subjects using data from international surveys. Emphasis is placed on the theories and statistical tools for analyzing the demographic dynamics in different temporal and geographical contexts

Detailed program

Definition of developing countries:

- origin of the term
- international organizations' criteria to classify the countries according to their development level
- critiques of the definition and future use of the term

Demographic transition:

- definition and examples
- factors, processes, and consequences of the demographic transition
- second demographic transition

Relationships between population and resources:

- population growth
- population maximum
- limiting and choice factors
- Malthusian model (theory and formulation)
- post-Malthusian models

Fertility and family planning:

- factors that influence fertility
- fertility in Asian, African and Latino-American countries
- contraception and family planning
- microeconomics theories to explain fertility

Development sustainable goals:

- introduction
- focus on the goals no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education and gender equality
- indicators describing the progress towards the goals

Prerequisites

Having attended and passed the exam of the course Demography

Teaching methods

Lectures and tutorials. Students analyze the demographic dynamics in a chosen developing country using data from international sources in the tutorials

Assessment methods

Oral exam

The attending students must write a report illustrating the results of the analysis performed during the tutorials and

give a presentation concerning the first two tutorials. The oral exam is a discussion of the report and the course topics. The presentation adds up to two points to the oral exam grade if the grade is at least 18.

The oral exam for the non-attending students is a discussion of:

- Micheli G. (2011). Demografie. Mc-Graw Hill. Chapters: 1,4,5,6
- Angeli, A., Salvini, S. (2018). Popolazione mondiale e sviluppo sostenibile. Il Mulino

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Slides and material on the e-learning page.

For attending students:

- Angeli, A., Salvini, S. (2018). Popolazione mondiale e sviluppo sostenibile. Il Mulino
- Bacci, M. L. (2020). Storia minima della popolazione del mondo. Società editrice il Mulino
- Dyson, T. (2010). Population and development: the demographic transition. Bloomsbury Publishing
- Micheli G. (2011). Demografie. Mc-Graw Hill. Chapters: 1,4,5,6

For non-attending students:

- Angeli, A., Salvini, S. (2018). Popolazione mondiale e sviluppo sostenibile. Il Mulino
- Micheli G. (2011). Demografie. Mc-Graw Hill. Chapters: 1,4,5,6

Semester

Second semester, second cycle (approximately from May to mid June)

Teaching language

Italian

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | ZERO HUNGER | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY
