UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Tourism and Local Development

2324-1-F4901N105

Learning objectives

The course aims to provide theoretical-conceptual and design tools to understand and analyze the complex relationship between tourism and local development.
Specifically, it will be tackled the issues relating 1) to the relationship between tourism and the local community; 2) to the local turn in tourism; 3) to the relationships among museums, tourism and local development; 4) how tourism can trigger resilience.
The tools learned can also be used for planning local development strategies through tourism.

Contents

The course deals with issues relating to the relationship between tourism and local development at a theoretical level and by examining very different cases and contexts: it ranges from urban tourism to rural communities; from internal areas to the neighborhoods of large metropolises; the role of museums and ecomuseums for the design of tourism projects that aim at local development to the point of touching issues related to resilience.
In the analysis of the effects of tourism on local development, the problems that hinder the full development of the territories will also be examined: i.e. problems related to environmental, economic and social sustainability.

Detailed program

The course is organized in three parts. The first part deals with issues relating to local turn in tourism and the controversial relationship between tourism and the local community. The second one deals with issues relating to the role of museums and ecomuseums in guiding tourism in the direction of sustainability and local development. In the third, and last part, issues related to tourism and resilience are tackled.

First part
The issues addressed in the first part of the course concern: what is the meaning of local development, what is the role of the local community in the local development strategies. How and why tourism can be an instrument of local development. How local community can react to the tourism development strategies in different contexts: for example in a large city like Chicago, in peripheral areas or in low-income countries.

Second part
The issues addressed are about the relationship between museums, ecomuseums and tourism development. Specifically, it discusses how these institutions can become a vehicle for activating local development processes and forms of sustainability.

Third part
The last part of the course aims to present best practices in which tourism is an activator of resilence processes. .

Prerequisites

No specific requirements, but an adequate knowledge of English

Teaching methods

Lessons will be based on theoretical, practical issues. Thematic seminars, given by experts, practitioners, policy makers, will be organized.
Moreover, specific moments of discussion (on the topics of the course) and group exercises will also be proposed with the aim to make the concepts discussed more comprehensible, to encourage the socialization and to stimulate the horizontal learning.
The course will be in English, so particolar attention will be given to the understanding of the contents, focusing on the most important concepts.

Assessment methods

The assessment will take place through an interview to verify the knowledge of the course contents, the reference texts and the teaching materials provided via e-learning platform.
Students, who participate consistently in class, are invited to produce a paper individually or with another student (where, however, each student's contribution is evident). The paper may be a short essay, a case analysis or a project work.
The paper will be presented at the end of the course and it is an integral part of the overall assessment.
In general, for all students, the assessment takes into account the knowledge of the topics of the course (and the related bibliography), the ownership of language and the critical-interpretative skill.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Borrelli, Dal Santo, Davis, 2023, Ecomuseums and Climate change, Ledizioni (opensource) (5 chapters)

Higgins-Desbiolles, F., & Bigby, B. C. (Eds.). (2022). The Local Turn in Tourism: Empowering Communities (Vol. 95). Channel View Publications. (5 chapters)

Other Readings

Borrelli, N., & Adams, K. M. (2018). Analysing Pilsen Mexican Neighbourhood in Chicago through the lens of competitiveness and social cohesion. In Moving Cities–Contested Views on Urban Life (pp. 133-151). Springer VS, Wiesbaden.

Borrelli, N., & Kalayil, A. L. (2011). Tourism and planning in Chicago. The experience of Devon Avenue. Tourism Planning & Development, 8(4), 345-357.

Brown K (2019) Museums and Local Development: An Introduction to Museums, Sustainability and Well-being, Museum International, 71:3-4, 1-13,

Borrelli, N., & Davis, P. (2013). Developing capacity building: Reflections on Chicago's field museum USA. Museum Management and Curatorship, 28(5), 455–466. (Tourism and Museums)

The list, presented above, may be change.

Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES