UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Sustainability Transitions

2425-1-F4901N123

Learning objectives

The objective of the course is to provide adequate knowledge to understand the current global ecological crasis, so that students can can acquire a general perspective on sustainability transitions.

Contents

The global ecolocial crisis: Socio-economic impacts of global ecological challenges.
The drivers of unsustainability.
Transitioning to sustainability.
Tourism and sustainability.

Detailed program

The course addresses the follwing issues:

- Polycrisis;
- Climate crisis as a threat multiplier;
- The limits of sustainability;
- Governance challenges;
- Global commodity chains;
- Extractivism;
- Critical minerals;
- Fossil fuels;
- Meat and dairy;

- Tourism
- Responsibility for the climate crisis
- Phase out and phase in sustainability transitions;
- Social change towards sustainability;
- Example of the transition of a socio-energy system;
- Tourism and sustainability transitions.

Such issues are dealt with in an interdisciplinary perspective and using case studies.

Prerequisites

Knowledge of the theoretical and methodological foundations of social sciences and good writing and communication skills.

Teaching methods

Approximately 75% of the course uses a 'diadattica erogativa' (DE) mode; it consists in lectures with the use of slides, audio and video.

Approximately 25% of the course makes use of a 'didattica interattiva' (DI) mode; it consists in exercises, group work, presentation of case studies from which individual and subgroup work can be developed, prepared and discussed during the course.

Approximately 20% of the course will be delivered through asynchronous online teaching, i.e. recorded lectures by the instructor that will be available prior to the lecture itself and then kept online. They are offered at the conclusion of the various teaching blocks into which the course is divided with the aim of expanding and deepening them. These lectures are part of the course material.

The teaching is delivered in English and the study materials are in English.

Assessment methods

Written exam: open-ended questions.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Scientific articles, reports and other 'grey literature' indicated by the instructor during the course on the following topics:

Part I – Unsustainability: Socio-economic impacts of global ecological challenges
Lesson 1 – Polycrisis
Lesson 2 – Climate crisis as a threat multiplier

Part II – The drivers of unsustainability
Lesson 3 – The limits of sustainability
Lesson 4 – Governance challenges
Lesson 5 – Global commodity chains
Lesson 6 – Extractivism
Lesson 7 – Critical minerals
Hernandez, D. S., and Newell, P. (2022). Oro blanco: assembling extractivism in the lithium triangle. The Journal of Peasant Studies, 49(5),
Lesson 8 – Fossil fuels
Lesson 9 – Meat and dairy
Lesson 10 – Tourism

Part III – Transitioning to sustainability
Lesson 11 – Climate crisis and responsbility
Lesson 12 – Phase out and phase in sustainability transitions
Lesson 13 – Social change towards sustainability
Lesson 14 – Example of the transition of a socio-economic system
Lesson 15 – Tourism and sustainability transitions

Sustainable Development Goals

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | CLIMATE ACTION