



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

City Making in The European City

2425-2-F8802N066

Learning objectives

The course offers the analytical, methodological and conceptual tools to identify and know how to analyse the transformations affecting the contemporary European city, with a particular focus on the role of civil society in the city-making process, that is, in directing, influencing and addressing change.

The aim of the course is to develop a critical approach in the analysis of the main urban transformations through an articulated framework able to identify the actors involved, the narratives, the interests, the opportunities at stake. It is aimed at students with a particular interest in urban development practices and how these relate to broader political and economic processes.

The theoretical framework on the European city is useful for this type of analysis because it allows to focus on the combination of elements related to the historical and cultural context, the local and multi-level institutional framework, and the constellation of public and private actors that make it up. The focus on the European city does not imply a Eurocentric point of view, but, on the contrary, highlights the need for a situated approach, capable of understanding the processes at work in the most diverse contexts.

Contents

The debate and the main characteristics of the European city (its history and traditions, institutional arrangements, multilevel governance, ...) represent the first part of the course, useful for outlining the context within which the second part is developed, which deals with issues particularly relevant in understanding the role of civil society in shaping urban transformations.

The course will illustrate a series of topics, e.g. urban segregation, neighbourhood transformation, local welfare, urban and economic development of cities, the role of culture in contemporary society, and others, where it is possible to observe the role of civil society and aspects of social and cultural innovation.

Detailed program

The course first of all deals with the debate that, at the turn of the 1990s and 21st century, characterised urban studies in Europe in which, on the one hand, the emergence of European cities as a new player in the global political-economic arena was observed, and on the other, the persistence of certain characteristics that were traditionally associated with these contexts: social cohesion, high quality of life, economic competitiveness, smooth residential segregation models, the importance of civil society in transformation processes, and so on.

Starting from this perspective, the debate on the European city is reconstructed and then some main themes are explored, which better than others help to focus on the main transformations taking place and the role of civil society in change.

- Characteristics of the European city and reconstruction of the debate (does a European city exist?)
- Methodological focus on comparison
- Change in society: cultural, economic and political factors
- Social innovation in urban studies
- Segregation, urban transformation and gentrification
- Main characters of the urban welfare
- The European city in the global economy and the 'new urban economy'
- Participation and conflict in urban governance
- Cultural innovation

Prerequisites

None

Teaching methods

Traditional class lectures, seminars with experts, practitioners and policy maker; class discussion and students' presentations. If possible, visit outside the university campus will be organised.

As a general indication, teaching will be organised as follows:

- Approximately 60% of the hours will be dedicated to didactic delivery with frontal lessons using slides and audio-video-textual material.
- Approximately 40% of the hours will be devoted to interactive teaching, which will include, in addition to field trips, individual and group work by students, presentation of texts and discussion of case studies.

Assessment methods

Students can choose two alternative paths:

a) **Path with groupworks and presentation:** a twofold assesment based both on group work and individual work: class presentations of a scientific paper and essay on a case study (groupwork); individual oral exam aimed at assess the knowledge of the course topics;

b) **Path without groupworks and presentation:** oral exam aimed at assess the knowledge of the course topics, the textbook and the reading materials

In generale, the assessment keeps into account the knowledge of the topics of the course and bibliography, of the

language use and of the critical stances of students

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Two different materials:

a) **Path with group work and presentation:** Texts will be listed on the e-learning page

b) **Path without groupwork and presentations:**

- Patrick Le Gale?s, 2005, Le citta? europee: societa? urbane, globalizzazione, governo locale, Il mulino, Bologna*
- Alberta Andreotti, 2019, Governare Milano nel nuovo millennio, Il Mulino, Bologna*
- Other readings (approximately 2 or 3 articles in scientific journals or book chapters in Italian or English) will be indicated later on the course e-learning page

*For English speakers other texts can be available if requested

Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
