UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Migration, Boundaries and Diversity

2425-2-F8803N013

Learning objectives

The course aims to provide the analytical tools to understand and analyse the relationship between the governance of international migration, the reconfiguration and proliferation of borders within and beyond nation-states, the processes of socio-political construction of cultural otherness, and contemporary manifestations of racism (both at the systemic level and in everyday practices).

Contents

The course programme covers five thematic areas:

1. Categories for the analysis of human mobility.
2. Immigration policies: the multiscalar governance of international migration.
3. Immigrant policies and the construction of otherness.
4. The multicultural triangle: nation, ethnicity, religion.
5. Old and new racisms.

Detailed program

The five main thematic areas of the course will be articulated as follows:

1. Categories for the analysis of human mobility:

- Bureaucratic-administrative devices and scientific research on international migration.
- Migration as a social construction.

- Shaping people.

2. Immigration policies: the multiscalar governance of international migration:

- Immigration policies vs. immigrant policies: the centrality of control policies.
- The evolution of control policies in Europe.
- Immigration: from an economic issue to a security issue.
- Borderscapes: reconfiguration and multiplication of borders.
- Forced migration and the right to asylum.
- The European asylum system.
- Asylum seekers between stigmatisation and victimisation.

3. Immigrant policies and the construction of otherness:

- Traditional models of integration in Europe and their recent transformations.
- Local, national, supranational frameworks and their interactions.
- Neo-assimilationism, multiculturalism, interculturalism?
- The Italian case.

4. The multicultural triangle: nation, ethnicity, religion:

- Cultural differences and everyday boundary work.
- Citizenship, belonging, identity.
- Practices and acts of citizenship.
- Diversity policies and urban transformations.
- The consumption of difference.

5. Old and new racisms:

- From biology to culture?
- The political-media discourse on migration and cultural differences.
- The securitisation of immigration.
- The spectacle of the border.
- Institutional racism and ethno-racial discrimination.
- Everyday racism.

Prerequisites

None

Teaching methods

Approximately 40% of lectures.
Approximately 60% of interactive teaching: presentation and discussion of texts, group exercises, design and realisation of a research project on the course topics.

Assessment methods

Students can choose between:

1. A research paper on a topic related to the course programme and to be agreed with the teacher.
2. An oral test.

Assessment criteria (for both the research paper and the written test):

- Correct and relevant use of sociological language.
- Ability to identify, organise and explain arguments accurately.
- Ability to make connections between different topics.
- Completeness of presentation.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

For those choosing the research paper option, the reference texts will be presented in the first lecture of the course and, where possible, made available in pdf format.

Reference texts to prepare for the written examination:

- A collection of articles that will be made available on the course online page.
- Colombo E. 2020, *Sociologia delle relazioni interculturali*, Roma: Carocci.
- Quassoli F., 2021, *Clandestino. Il governo delle migrazioni nell'Italia contemporanea*, Milano: Meltemi.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS