



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

New Risks and Urban Reconfigurations

2425-1-F8803N007

Learning objectives

At the end of the course the students will have acquired knowledge of the most recent and important territorial transformations affecting urban environments, as well as a greater facility to read the dynamics of social change through the analysis of their interaction with the territories in which they unfold. In fact, the territorialist approach makes it possible to place social phenomena in real local contexts, at different scales (from European to national and local/metropolitan), providing the basic tools to be able to question similar dynamics in different territories and consequently assess the specific ways in which they are realised.

Contents

In the light of the importance of guaranteeing sustainability objectives, contemporary cities and metropolitan territories are faced with the need to plan their development in compliance with these, within a framework of growing threats and risks to social and territorial, environmental and economic cohesion (spread of new diseases; extraordinary climatic events; territorial conflicts; ...).

The main theme of the course is the study of the environmental, social and economic risk elements that threaten metropolitan (and other) territories and the methodological and theoretical tools for developing knowledge useful to respond to these risks in territorial planning. Attention will also be paid to the methods of territorial analysis (of a quantitative type, through the use of statistical and spatial analysis software), as well as to the study of strategies and policies useful for the development of metropolitan contexts and the socio-technical systems that comprise them (mobility, ecosystem services, social services, ...).

Particular attention will be paid to study methods and dynamics inherent to:

- Society (urban/metropolitan populations and their relations; demographic transformations; conflicts; local welfare; ...)
- Urban development and socio-territorial planning (governance and tools for territorial management and planning)

- Energy and resources (sustainability; energy communities; ...)

Detailed program

The course aims to provide students with tools and concepts for an in-depth analysis and knowledge of the most recent dynamics of social transformation and their impact on local contexts, with particular attention to urban and metropolitan contexts. These transformations, intervening in given socio-technical systems, contribute to undermine their prerequisites and consequently reduce their capacity to respond to the new needs generated, giving rise to new forms of risk to the resilience of societies and new forms of vulnerability.

Through a review of the main theories and contributions from the sociological (and other) literature, the course aims to problematise some of the most relevant dimensions of risk. Divided into four modules, each focusing on one of these, the course will address:

Module 1 (14h)

The evolution of urban and metropolitan forms. The reference context of the course are urban territories, but what is meant by urban and city nowadays? The module addresses this issue to provide the framework through which to interpret the forms of risk affecting urban and metropolitan areas and the consequent forms of organising responses to them. The evolution of the metropolitan level in Italy will be analysed (forms and dynamics) as well as its role in integrating local policies and balancing the imbalances between centres and peripheries.

Module 2 (14h)

Territorial governance for metropolitan cities will be dealt with starting from the different populations that live in them (the main actors), analysing the conflicts between interests and uses of the city and between the cities and territories themselves. In this, special attention will be paid to the socio-demographic transformations that have affected these contexts, such as gentrification processes. The focus, while concentrated on the Italian context, will not neglect, where possible, to maintain a comparative look with at least the European context. In order to equip itself with a base of analytical tools useful for the study of transformations in urban and metropolitan contexts, the methods of territorial analysis will be introduced, with a preference for its quantitative component.

Module 3 (14h)

The transformations and risks related to **new forms of poverty and the challenges for the (particularly local) welfare state**. Starting from the discussion of the systematic fragility and loss of guarantees of traditional socialisation and stability agencies, the most recent and relevant socio-demographic transformations that determine them, and their impact on actors and the local welfare system will be discussed. Specific attention will be given to the role of the territory in the governance of health and social services, as a factor of cohesion or lack thereof.

Module 4 (14h)

Urban contexts are affected, like the globe as a whole, by risks related to environmental transformations due to the impact of human activities. Indeed, a crucial aspect of life in urban areas is **the supply and management of resources**. The introduction to the elements of urban ecology and the analysis of supply systems (of energy and goods), of new forms of responding to needs (also in the light of recent transformations and shocks) and of the role of urban ecosystem services, allow us to grasp the elements useful for interpreting needs and prospects.

Prerequisites

Sufficient knowledge of logic and general culture.

Teaching methods

The course will consist of face-to-face lectures on the main topics to introduce the basic thematic concepts and macro-phenomena, in accordance with a didactic delivery (DE) setting, for 2/3 of the course. Useful case studies will also be presented and discussed to deepen and make more concrete the topics addressed elsewhere at a more theoretical level, also in laboratory form (in Interactive Didactics, DI mode) for about 1/3 of the course.

Assessment methods

Attending and non-attending students will be assessed by means of an individual written test based on 'open questions' concerning the book chapters and articles included in the examination materials.

The assessment criteria for the written test (for attending and non-attending students) are:

1. language property - appropriate use of technical and thematic terms;
2. accuracy in the logical exposition of topics;
3. ability to construct connections between the various topics;
4. ability to provide concrete and relevant examples with reference to the topics addressed
5. completeness of exposition given the time and page limits available.

Students who so wish will be given the opportunity to take an oral further examination (as an integration), which will give them the possibility of increasing (or decreasing) their mark in the written examination by 2 points.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

A handout of selected chapters and/or articles will be made available to students, forming approximately 450 pages of materials.

Sustainable Development Goals

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
