UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Media ecologies and digital (counter-) cultures

2425-Bbetween-AME-03

Module description

The course promotes the acquisition of theoretical and methodological knowledge regarding the study and analysis of digital media as informal learning ecologies contributing to the construction, ratification and/or de-construction of digital (counter-)cultures. Media are framed as pedagogical devices part of the “texture” of everyday experience, with a focus on media discourse and, in the case of digital media, the role of subjects as *prosumers* (i.e., producers as well as consumers of content). The course will build on some principles of critical discourse analysis, with particular regard to three key indicators: the subjects of enunciation and the epistemic authority of a media text (i.e., who communicates what and on what basis); the affordances of media ecologies; media users’ agency. This approach will be informative both for students’ own research activity and concerning its practical use in critical media education interventions.
Examples of research objects that students may analyze include (but are not limited to) media discourses on gender and sexuality, neoliberal subjectivities and capitalism, parenting and family, political activism, etc.

Learning goals

- Familiarizing with the main theoretical perspectives on digital media as informal learning ecologies
- Learning how to analyze media environments and contents with specific reference to critical discourse analysis
- Adopting a research-based approach to the study of media
- Promoting knowledge and skills on the educational potential of digital media to inform critical media education interventions

General goal

The module aims to provide epistemological, theoretical and methodological knowledge and skills to illuminate how digital media can both ratify and deconstruct common sense knowledge, expanding the educational opportunities users interface with and can promote themselves, toward the shared co-construction of digital (counter-)cultures.

Specific skills and competences

By the end of the course, students will have developed an understanding of key vocabulary in educational and media studies, become acquainted with the main theoretical approaches to studying digital media, and acquired the methodological skills necessary for sampling and critically analyzing media environments and content. Additionally, students will engage in reflective exercises on how to effectively promote critical and reflexive media education interventions.

Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 UN Agenda

Goal 4: Quality education
Goal 10: Reduced inequalities

Breakdown of meetings

The classes will be held in person.
The course involves a mixed frontal and research-based teaching approach, with students working in small groups (depending on the number of participants). Specifically, classes will be dedicated to theoretical and conceptual lectures and methodological workshops (involving dialogic exchanges, individual and group work supervised by the lecturer).

Number of participants

The course is open to both Master's degree students at the University of Milano-Bicocca and incoming students. There is not a maximum number of participants.

Language used in meetings

English

Delivery period of the module

Monday, March 10, 2025, 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM, U6 Building, 4th floor, "Aula Seminari" Room
Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM, U6 Building, 4th floor, "Aula Seminari" Room

Wednesday, March 26, 2025, 2:30 PM - 6:30 PM, U6 Building, 4th floor, Room 4057
Thursday, March 27, 2025, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM, U6 Building, 4th floor, "Aula Seminari" Room
Thursday, April 3, 2025, 2 PM - 4 PM, U6 Building, 4th floor, "Aula Riunioni" Room

Attendance is mandatory (at least 75% of the course hours must be attended in person).

Methods of assessing the outcomes of the learning process

Each student will identify a topic of interest to be critically explored, building on lectures and workshops, and supported by materials agreed upon with the lecturer (e.g., book chapters, selected scientific articles, or other relevant documents). The assignment can be completed as a short essay, or students may choose to create artistic, visual, or audiovisual work instead.

Department of affiliation of the teacher

Department of Human Sciences for Education "Riccardo Massa"

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | REDUCED INEQUALITIES