



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Laboratory 7

2526-3-E1601N086

Learning objectives

The aim of this workshop is to provide the tools necessary to understand the current sustainability challenges from an economic, political, social and environmental perspective. In the workshop, the different ways of responding to these challenges will be illustrated – through case studies and practical examples – by looking at different levels of action (e.g. individuals, communities, companies and governments). The aim is to develop an interdisciplinary pathway that enables students to acquire the necessary training to address the topic of sustainability in a broad and transversal manner. The workshop will provide the competence to

- Knowledge and understanding:

Critically understand the main challenges of sustainability from a political, social, economic and environmental perspective, with reference to theories and tools of organisation and social sciences.

- Ability to apply knowledge and understanding:

Apply knowledge and analytical tools to concrete cases of sustainability, analysing complex problems and proposing transformative actions in multidisciplinary contexts.

- Autonomy of judgement:

Formulate independent assessments of sustainability issues, interpreting data and contexts, and considering the ethical, social and environmental implications of the proposed solutions.

- Communication skills:

Communicate concepts, analyses and proposals for action clearly, effectively and in a structured manner, both in writing and orally, including through group work.

- Learning skills:

Develop independent learning skills, including through research and case studies, useful for critically and up-to-date addressing sustainability issues in academic and professional contexts.

Contents

Activities will be structured in such a way as to enable students to tackle concrete sustainability problems by critically confronting case studies and the tools currently available to solve them. This will allow them to

- grasp the core notions of sustainability (history, changes and limits)
- precisely define the topic of sustainability
- identify problems and solutions to promote sustainability
- conduct research, define case studies and choose appropriate tools
- alternating theory and practice through exercises

Detailed program

The workshop will serve to develop and consolidate analytical and practical skills related to sustainability and the effects that the climate and ecological crisis may have on social, economic and political life. An important part of this training is to identify, circumscribe and construct appropriate responses to sustainability issues – distinguishing different levels of action, appropriate contexts and the social and technical construction of these responses. Each section will present a topic central to sustainability (such as energy, agriculture, health, etc.), currently available analysis tools and examples of innovative solutions. Case studies will be the focus of the workshop activities, where students will have to explore them – individually or in groups – exercising their ability to critically analyse problems (through existing contexts, actors and institutions), as well as exploring the various tools that can contribute to changes towards sustainability. This will enable them to address concrete problems, considering the limits and potential for action of individuals, companies and governments.

In this context, the notion of research – and of analytical and critical capacity – becomes central as an essential tool for building just and sustainable societies.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites required to participate in third-year workshops:

- Be enrolled from year 3 onwards.
- Having passed the Mathematics and Statistics examinations.
- Have obtained 90 CFU or more (at the time of enrolment in the workshop).
- Planned workshops.

Teaching methods

Laboratory activities will be carried out through Erogative Didactics (ED) and Interactive Didactics (ID)).

Erogative Didactics (ED) will consist of face-to-face classroom teaching, focusing on the presentation and introduction of general content on the topic of the workshop section (there will be 6 sections in total), important concepts for interpreting sustainability issues and analytical tools that will enable students to critically analyse case studies and evaluate possible actions and solutions to contemporary environmental problems.

Interactive teaching (ID) will be the practical time in the laboratory where students will have to analyse sustainability-related case studies and projects. The interactive activities will mainly consist of individual and group work to discuss and analyse the case studies and develop – based on the conditions of each case – possible virtuous actions to improve the socio-environmental conditions present.

The workshop consists of 24 hours. The activities will be distributed between 30-40% ED and 60-70% ID – depending on the topics covered and the case studies to be analysed.

Assessment methods

Learning assessment will be based on two main elements:

- Active participation in classroom activities, including discussions, exercises and case study analysis.
- Individual or group final presentation, focusing on a case study, project or topic covered during the workshop. The presentation should highlight the ability to apply the analytical tools acquired, critically analyse the issues addressed and propose solutions consistent with the course objectives.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The teaching materials will be made available before each section by the workshop leader and will include a reference text for each topic covered (e.g. energy, agriculture, mobility, etc.) and a selection of case studies. The texts and cases will be chosen based on their relevance to the analysis of sustainability issues, the availability of data and accessibility for all students.

Sustainable Development Goals

CLIMATE ACTION
