UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Territorial Organization

2526-3-E1601N079

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding
Organizational studies have made it clear now that organizations do not act in a vacuum, but are inserted in a specific context, within which they develop complex relationships. The course aims to explore the different elements that characterize the context, using the theoretical framework provided by the urban studies. In other words, if the science of organizations looks at the relationship between context and organization *on the side of organizations*, this course focuses *on the context*, providing the conceptual framework necessary to explore, for example, the social and economic structure of the region where an organization is places; cultural resources, traditions, history of the place available to organizations; the local policies that govern its actions and so on. The course aims to provide the theoretical and methodological tools to observe, describe, analyse social phenomena in space and to identify the mechanisms that generate them.
Applied knowledge and understanding
At the end of the course, students will be able to describe the main sociological theories and the debates on the city and space, to reflect on the main spatial dynamics of contemporary society and to confront with the relationship between economic processes and space.
Autonomy of judgement
Students will also develop the ability to observe society with a focused and curious gaze, and will be able to raise new questions and give themselves independent answers on what is happening around them, with particular attention to the location of economic phenomena and to their relationship with the space.
Communication skills and ability to learn
Students are expected to present case studies and scientific articles that will develop their communication skills and their ability to learn

Contents

The course focuses on the mechanisms underlying the spatialisation of social phenomena in relation to

organizations: economic and regulatory processes, multiplicity of actors, differences, cultures, needs and demands that are generated in space. In particular, the spatial dynamics of economic processes will be observed, focusing on the transformations brought about by globalization, on the spatialisation of economic activities, on the development models that gradually emerge for cities and regions in the contemporary world.
The course is organized in three parts; in the firs the main themes of urban studies are presented, in order to build a vocabulary necessary to investigate the spatialisation processes of economic forms; the second part, more articulated, explores, through examples and case studies, a series of questions, crucial to understand the main spatial dynamics of economic activities and their complex relationship with organizations. The third part is a fieldwork on the transformation of a neighbourhood in Milan

Detailed program

First part (introduction to the concepts of the urban and regional studies)

- Introduction to the field
- The urban question
- Research methods in the urban
  Second part (the urban question)
- Main economic transformations
- Social and morphologial structure of cities and territories (poverty, segregation, gentrification)
- Culture and cities
- Policies and regulatory framework
  Third part (the transformation of a Milanese neighbourhood)
- collecting data
- direct observation
- digital etnography (instagram, googlemap, digital platforms)
- bibliographic research
  This part will be carried on partially in class, (or visiting a neighbourhood) and led by teacher and tutor; it will be the base for the elaboration of a group essay which is part of the assessment.

Prerequisites

No specific requirements; as for the other courses in the third year, statistics is a compulsory exam.

Teaching methods

If possible, teaching will be offered in classroom, off-line, even with seminars given by experts, practictioners, policy-makers. Also, if possible, tours outside the university campus will be organised. Moreover, to encourage discussion, regular studying and socializing, there will be moments of discussion on the topics of the course.
Autonomous exercises and works will also be proposed, which will be carried out in groups, in order to understand better urban and regional studies methods and concepts. Exercises also represent a useful tool for socializing and horizontal learning among students.
As an indication, teaching will be organised as follows:

- Approximately 60% of the hours will be devoted to didactic delivery with lectures using slides and audio-video-textual material.

- Approximately 40% of the hours will be devoted to interactive teaching, which includes, in addition to field visits, individual and group work by students, presentation of texts and discussion of case studies.

Assessment methods

Assessment is diversified in two ways:
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a) **Learning programme with exercises and group works.**
Class presentation of a paper, plus preparation and presentation of an essay about neighbourhood trasnformation. Finally, an oral exam in which knowledge on the course programme

b) **Learning programme without exercises and group works**.
Students, in a independent way, will study texbooks and reading materials, materials available on the e-learning page. The final assessment is done through an oral exam to verify the learning and comprehension of the course contents, reference texts and teaching materials provided by the teachers.

In general, for all students, the assessment takes into account the knowledge of the topics of the course and the relative bibliography, the property of language and the critical-interpretative capacity.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

A) Learning programme with exercises and group works:
Two types of material (both compulsory)

1. Lectures notes
2. Reading of a pair of texts, (a textbook and a novel - see e-learning page for more info)

Recommended reading: "Turn Your Literature Review Into An Argument", by Robert Thomas, Sage publisher.

B) Learning programme without exercises and group works
Three types of material (all compulsory)

1. Ciaffi, D., Crivello, S., A. Mela, Le città contemporanee. Prospettive sociologiche, Carocci, Roma, 2020 or, (e-book available in the library of the University) Orum, A. M., Chen, X., & Paulsen, K. E. (2018). *Introduction to cities: how place and space shape human experience* Wiley-Blackwell (only first, second and third section of the book - until page 256)
2. Reading of 5 papers available on the e-learning page (inthe section “Articoli scientifici per esame”)
3. Reading of a pair of texts, (a textbook and a novel) insert in the e-learning page of the course

Recommended reading: "Turn Your Literature Review Into An Argument", by Robert Thomas, Sage publisher.

Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES