UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Development, Sustainability and Organizations (blended)

2526-3-E1601N107

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding
Provide theoretical and interpretative knowledge useful for understanding economic and social development processes.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding
Provide an overview of the main methods of analysis and interpretation of development and the global value chain.

Autonomy of judgment
Encourage a critical reading of development processes.

Communication
Strengthen oral and written communication skills.

Learning
Encourage curiosity and openness towards the plurality of theoretical and empirical approaches used to understand, explain and analyze development and the global value chain.

Contents

The course deals with the topic of the economic development, with a sociological approach. It shows the main theoretical approaches to the socio-economic development, since the debate on modernization. In this field, the strengths and the weaknesses of the main theories of development are described. Moreover, the attention is focused on the recent debate on sustainable development and alternatives to development.
In the second part of the course the theme of global value chains will be explored, with the aim of understanding what they are, and what role they play in defining transnational and local development paths.

Detailed program

The course is arranged in two parts. The first part describes the main theoretical approaches to the economic development, on which the debate on the modernization has been built. The attention is focused on the problem of “underdevelopment”, and to the main solutions that many countries carried out. In this section, the main features of theories such as those of modernization and of dependency, as well as approaches such as those of the basic needs and of the self-reliance are described, analyzed and discussed. The analysis therefore focuses on some of the recent approaches to development (for instance, the sustainable development), with the aim of highlighting elements of continuity and novelty with respect to the development ideas that characterized the debate in the previous years.
The second part of the course focuses on the most recent debate on the processes of economic globalization and global value chains (GVC). In this field, through the study of some concrete cases, the actors composing these chains are described and analyzed, as well as the forms of the GVC and their role in the development processes both at the transnational level and at the local level.

Prerequisites

Any prerequisites are not needed.

Teaching methods

Participation in the course is possible in two ways: (1) blended-learning plus mode; (2) blended learning mode. Those who decide to follow the course in blended-learning plus mode will have to participate in the lessons regularly, to participate in individual activities and group works within the times proposed by the teacher. The blended-learning plus and blended learning modes envisage different evaluation systems.
The course consists of 56 hours, of which approximately 30 hours is with didactic delivery (lectures with use of slides, audio and video) and about 26 hours with interactive teaching (exercises, group work, activities on elearning platform, presentations and classroom discussions).

Assessment methods

Blended learning mode: Oral exam. The evaluation will consider the correctness of the answers, the precision, the ownership of language and the argumentative effectiveness in order to verify the learning and understanding of the contents of the exam program. Please note that the exam program includes the texts indicated in the 'Reference texts' section. The lessons and activities proposed on the elearning platform will touch only part of the entire exam program; they are therefore intended as supplementary didactic material.

Blended learning plus mode. Students who decide to follow the course in blended-learning plus mode will be assessed with reference to the following activities: group works; open and closed questions relating to the activities to be carried out individually on the e-learning platform; active participation to the lessons. Group works involve the elaboration and discussion of written texts.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Books:

- Bottazzi G. (2009). Sociologia dello sviluppo. Bari-Roma: Laterza.
- Greco L. (2016). Capitalismo e sviluppo delle catene globali del valore. Roma: Carocci.

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | ZERO HUNGER | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | REDUCED INEQUALITIES