UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Urban Politics

2526-3-E4001N133

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding
Provide theoretical skills needed to understand city government processes.

Applying knowledge and understanding
Provide an overview of the main methods of urban politics analysis.

Autonomy of judgement
Stimulating critical reading of urban processes

Communication skills
Refining both oral and written communication tools

Learning skills
Fostering an attitude of curiosity and openness to the plurality of theoretical approaches to the analysis of the city

Contents

The course introduces students to the topic of urban policy, proposing some essential interpretative models for how cities deal with the contemporary transformations.

Detailed program

The course provides an overview of the main analyzes and interpretations relating to urban policy. The theme of

the city government is deepened starting from some classic models proposed by urban sociology and political sociology. The city government is further analyzed in relation to demographic, economic, cultural and political conditions that are investing contemporary cities in the last few decades. Among the issues on which the course is concentrated in a specific way: the way in which decisions are made about the city; the mechanisms by which are built government coalitions; urban policy strategies to address the current challenges of growth and sustainability; the competition between cities to attract resources; the relationship between urban governance and government of territorial systems of different scale.

Prerequisites

Students in the course must have a knowledge of the main sociological theories, and in particular those relating to urban sociology. They are also required basic methodological skills.

Teaching methods

Lectures in italian, seminar activities, review and discussion of scientific articles, individual and group exercises.

The Course consists of 56 hours, of which approximately 50 percent is with erogative teaching (lectures) and 50 percent with interactive teaching (exercises, group work, presentation of case studies, classroom discussions during the course).
Part of the interactive teaching activities related to the development of group work (up to a maximum of 14 hours) may possibly be organized remotely, depending on the overall organization of the degree program timetable and the availability of adequate space and infrastructure.

Assessment methods

Two different and alternative modes of evaluation are possible:

- the first consists in an oral test.

- the second one consists in in-progress evaluations of group and individual wor
  k that will be assigned during the course. This work involves the production of
   written papers and their discussion during class.

Both modes of verification are aimed at assessing:

- the degree of knowledge of the course content;

- the ability to use the concepts learned while applying them to specific situati
  ons and contexts;

- the ability to critically reflect on contemporary urban processes;

- the ability to communicate accurately and clearly.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

For those who choose the in itinere tests

- Semi, G. (2015). *Gentrification. Tutte le città come Disneyland?* Bologna: Il Mulino.
- Pinson, G. (2022). *La città neoliberale*, Milano: Mimesis.

Ulteriore bibliografia sarà comunicata durante il corso.

For those who choose the oral test
a) Obbligatorio per tutti.

- Semi, G. (2015). *Gentrification. Tutte le città come Disneyland?* Bologna: Il Mulino.
- Pinson, G. (2022). *La città neoliberale*, Milano: Mimesis.

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b) Un volume a scelta tra:

- Belligni S. e Ravazzi S. (2012). *La politica e la città. Regime urbano e classe dirigente a Torino*, Bologna: Il Mulino.
- Tosi S. (2018). *Cultural stadi. Calcio, città, consumi e politiche*, Milano: Ledizioni.
- Tozzi, L. (2023).* L'invenzione di Milano*, Napoli: Cronopio.

Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | LIFE BELOW WATER | LIFE ON LAND | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS