



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Environmental Sociology

2526-2-E4001N130

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#### Learning objectives

The course aims to provide students with a solid theoretical and methodological foundation to understand and sociologically analyse key contemporary environmental challenges, fostering cross-disciplinary skills.

- To provide theoretical tools to understand the relationship between society and the environment and the basics of the sociology of the environment (Knowledge and understanding)
- To offer methods and case studies to analyze the global ecological and climate crisis from a sociological perspective (Ability to apply knowledge and understanding)
- To stimulate critical reflection on ecological processes and institutional responses (Making judgments)
- To strengthen oral and written presentation skills through structured activities and collaborative work (Communication skills)
- To promote autonomous and reflective learning on complex and interdisciplinary socio-environmental challenges (Learning skills)

#### Contents

The course addresses issues related to the relationship between man and the environment, deepening the study of the main theories and approaches that characterize the discipline. The course also offers thematic insights aimed at reconstructing the public and scientific debate around the relationship between society and nature in the scenario of the global ecological crisis, also in light of the pandemic crisis

#### Detailed program

The course is divided into three parts.

The first part deals with the basic concepts and the main theories of the sociology of the environment  
In the second part, thanks to a review of scientific articles, thematic aspects related to the global ecological crisis will be explored, such as (by way of example): 1. the ecological impacts of development, production and consumption models; 2. sustainable development and biodiversity policies, global climate and environmental governance; 3. the issues of environmental justice and ecological democracy; 4. the circular economy and practices aimed at sustainability; 5. the social perception of environmental risks; 6. environmental movements, ecofeminism, deep ecology, ecomafias and transnational environmental crime. Some in-depth studies will be curated by external guests and will be part of a cycle of seminars entitled: 'Green Talks: Sociological Dialogues on Climate, Society and Environment'  
In the third part, Peer Parliament activities will be organized in which students divided into working groups will confront and discuss some in-depth topics

## **Prerequisites**

Ability to understand and critically analyze sociological texts. Ability to interact and discuss in the classroom among colleagues starting from the reading of scientific articles (also in English)

## **Teaching methods**

Indicatively, 60% of the course will be offered with Didactics Delivery (DE) - lectures with the use of slides, audio and video

and 40% with Interactive Teaching (DI) - exercises, subgroup work, presentation of case studies from which to develop individual and subgroup work, prepared and discussed during the course

4 hours of teaching in synchronous distance mode and 4 hours in asynchronous mode are also possible

Please note that it is available an e-learning platform, to which students are invited to enroll. During the course, moments of lectures will alternate with moments of debate and discussion starting from the text and articles shared by the teacher. Participation in the moments of debate is part of the commitment required of attending students

## **Assessment methods**

For those who will participate in classroom activities and moments of debate organized in a structured way by the teacher, there will be

- Participation will include classroom discussions based on materials provided by the instructor, engagement in Peer Parliaments (PP), and the completion of a group project work aimed at deepening topics covered in class.
- Skills assessed: critical skills, application of theories, written and oral communication
- Criteria: relevance, completeness, correctness, originality, language
- The final grade will be based on the group project and Peer Parliament participation

For those who do not participate in the debate activities and project work

- A final oral exam will be required, to be taken during the official exam sessions at the end of the course

- Skills evaluated: theoretical knowledge, argumentative ability and synthesis.
- Graduation criteria: conceptual correctness, ability to synthesize, relevance of arguments.
- The final grade will be based on the outcome of the oral exam.

## **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

2 manuals will be assigned to study and a handout for in-depth study

- Angelini A., Pizzuto P., La società sostenibile. Manual of Human Ecology, FrancoAngeli, 2021 (chap. 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, afterword).
- Minervini D., Socionature. Paths of sociology of the environment, Morlacchi Editore, 2024 (chap. 1-5).
- Lecture notes and scientific articles indicated by the teacher (e-learning materials).

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

GENDER EQUALITY | AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | CLIMATE ACTION | LIFE BELOW WATER | LIFE ON LAND | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

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