UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Social Demography, Developing Countries

2526-3-E4102B025

Learning objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to discuss and analyze the factors that influence demographic phenomena in countries in different areas of the world.

Knowledge and Understanding
This teaching will provide knowledge and understanding skills regarding:

- theories that explain demographic phenomena and their dynamics
- statistical methods for analyzing the link between social factors and demographic phenomena
- assessing the state of progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

Applying knowledge and understanding
By the end of the teaching, students will be able to:

- discuss theories that explain demographic phenomena and their dynamics
- describe and communicate the demographic evolution of a country
- analyze, interpret and communicate the link between social factors and demographic phenomena
- describe sustainable development goals and use appropriate assessment indicators

Making judgement
Students will develop these skills through the production of:

- 3 group reports based on practical exercises related to the various topics covered during the course
- 1 in-depth presentation on a specific topic agreed upon with the instructors.

Communication skills
Students will develop communication skills through the preparation and presentation of their selected topic.

Learning skills

Starting from the essential guidelines provided for the preparation of the reports (structure, key bibliography and web resources, analytical methods), students will be encouraged to independently deepen both the content and the methodological aspects of their work.

Teaching enables the student to acquire a solid foundation in the application of statistics to the context of biostatistics/statistical/demographic work.

Contents

1. Classification of countries according to their level of development
2. Demographic transition
3. Population and development
4. Demographic policies
5. Inequality and poverty
6. Sustainable development goals.

Topics will be illustrated using international data and reports.
Emphasis will be on statistical theories and methodologies to explain population dynamics in different geographic areas

Detailed program

1. Classification of countries according to their level of development:

- Definitions
- Criteria used by international organizations to classify countries according to their level of development.

2. Demographic transition:

- definition and examples in countries of ancient and contemporary transition.
- factors, processes and consequences of demographic transition.
- second demographic transition

3. Population and development:

- population growth
- maximum population
- constraint and choice factors
- the Malthusian model (theory and formalization)
- the post-Malthusian models

4. Demographic policies:

- factors influencing fertility.
- supply and demand for children
- fertility in Asian, African and Latin American countries.
- contraception and family planning policies.
- microeconomic theories to explain fertility

5. Inequality and Poverty:

- Secondary inequality as the object of measurement
- Economies and diseconomies of scale
- Equivalence scales

6. Sustainable Development Goals:

- introduction
- evolution and definition of sustainble development
- Millenium Development Goals
- focus on some of the goals zero poverty, zero hunger, health and well-being, quality education.
- data and indicators describing progress toward achieving the goals.

Prerequisites

This training activity must be preceded by passing the Demography examination

Teaching methods

- 6 two-hour in-person sessions delivered in a lecture-based format
- 3 three-hour remote synchronous sessions delivered in a lecture-based format
- 7 three-hour in-person sessions conducted as interactive workshops

Assessment methods

Attendants:
oral examination: DISCUSSION ON THE TOPICS DEVELOPED IN LECTURES, with individual intermediate tests (SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY REPORT).
Attendees will have to prepare a short report with the results of the analyses that will be carried out during the practicals and a presentation concerning the topics of the second part of the course.
The oral examination will be a discussion of the course topics and the report.
The evaluation scientific laboratory reports covers:

- the ability to apply the tools to the treatment of concrete research topics;
- the ability to write a short research report.

The oral examination aims to assess theoretical competence on the topics covered.

Non-attendants:
oral exam: DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS.
The exam focuses on thorough knowledge and understanding of the topics covered. The exam aims to assess theoretical competence and the ability to transfer this knowledge to the practical level.

Micheli G. (2011). Demographics. Mc-Graw Hill. Chapters: 1,4,5,6.
Angeli, A., Salvini, S. (2018). World population and sustainable development. The Mill.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Slides and materials available on the e-learning page.

Reference texts:
For those attending:

- Angels, A., Salvini, S. (2018). World population and sustainable development. Il Mulino.
- Bacci, M. L. (2020). Minimum history of world population. Il Mulino publishing company.
- Dyson, T. (2010). Population and development: the demographic transition. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Micheli G. (2011). Demographics. Mc-Graw Hill. Chapters: 1,4,5,6.

For non-attenders:

- Angeli, A., Salvini, S. (2018). World population and sustainable development. Il Mulino.
- Micheli G. (2011). Demographics. Mc-Graw Hill. Chapters: 1,4,5,6.

Semester

Second semester, second cycle (roughly May to mid-June)

Teaching language

Italian

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | ZERO HUNGER | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY