UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Geografia (blended)

2526-2-F0101R018

Course title

Where are we? Sense of place, orientation and disorientation

Topics and course structure

The course, conducted in blended learning mode, aims to develop students' knowledge and understanding of territorial practices. Where are we? Starting from the city, the place where most of us live, some key terms of the contemporary geographical discourse (place, space, territory, landscape, heritage, gender, animal geography) will be examined from a critical point of view, with the aim of communicating the richness and variety of the discipline, of revealing its nature and the possibility of drawing interdisciplinary connections in relation to spatial planning. In line with the ‘spatial turn’ common to the social sciences and cultural studies, students will engage with the geographical view of environmental, cultural, social and political phenomena in the contemporary world. The sense of place and the geographies of disorientation are the key themes of the course.
The 'sense of place' is to be understood as a fundamental category for understanding central aspects of the contemporary world. The dynamics of spatial orientation/disorientation concern, among other things, the complex open questions of our relationship with technology, as well as the understanding of spatial practices. The course will also introduce students to the basic elements of cartography, in their historical, political and methodological dimensions, with a particular emphasis on the concept of mental maps and the construction of the image of places.

Objectives

The content and programme of the course are consistent with the educational objectives of the degree programme.

Knowledge and understanding:

- The main objective of the course is to introduce students to the theoretical and methodological specificities of human geography in connection with other fields of knowledge.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

- Through online and synchronous activities, students will learn to use the concepts and themes of human geography and apply the proposed models to the study of socio-spatial processes and the territory. An introduction to reading maps and the use of mind maps are also useful tools for thesis work and to support students' research activities.

Autonomy of judgement:

- Understand the complexity of socio-cultural and geographical processes, accepting and valuing different points of view and overcoming stereotypes and prejudices.
- Assessing the consequences of one's actions and decisions, adopting a reflective and responsible attitude.

Communication skills:

- Expressing ideas, knowledge and arguments clearly.
- Formulating well-founded judgements, integrating information from different and reliable sources.

Learning skills:

- Developping and refining one's own learning methodologies, independently identifying and constructing objects and topics of study.

Methodologies

The course will be delivered in blended mode, in Italian, according to this distribution:
35 hours of classroom teaching;
21 hours of asynchronous online teaching and interactive activities.
Through the e-learning platform, students will be involved in the discussion of scientific articles, oral expositions and written papers, field activities, using the resources that will be prepared in the course page on the University platform https://elearning.unimib.it.

Online interaction will be used to manage activities with web-conferences, chats, forums, in order to promote active learning and develop skills in oral presentations with audio-video support and group discussions.

Online and offline teaching materials

D. Massey, 1991, "A global Sense of Place"

https://eclass.hua.gr/modules/document/file.php/GEO272/MASSEY%20-%20a%20global%20sense%20of%20place.pdf

Programme and references

Texts:

1. Schmidt di Friedberg M., Geographies of Disorientation, London, Routledge, 2017
2. Pezzoni N. La città sradicata. L'idea di città attraverso lo sguardo e il segno dell'altro, Milano, O barra O Edizioni, 2020
   And the articles:
3. D. Massey, 1991, «A global Sense of Place»,
4. Alaimo, M. Picone (2015) «Shadowing e Gis qualitativo: due strumenti per narrare la città», A. SCIENZE DEL TERRITORIO, n. 3 RICOSTRUIRE LA CITTà, pp. 176-185, DOI: 10.13128/Scienze_Territorio-16267Firenze University Press
5. E. Dell'Agnese (2020) «Milano, paesaggio culturale» in R. Capurro (a cura di), Milano, ritratto di una città Cinisello Balsamo, Silvana, (pp. 26-39).
6. V. Pecorelli V (2023) »Esplorare il margine per cambiare il mondo: William Bunge e la DGEI», Documenti geografici, 2, pp. 11-23
7. P. Molinari (2023) »Disseminare luoghi accoglienti nei contesti urbani difficili per "uscire dai margini»», Documenti Geografici, 2, pp.305-323.
8. D. Harvey (1979) «Monument and Myth», Annals of the Association of American Geographers, Vol. 69, No. 3, pp. 362-381
9. M. Fantò, «Ma davvero? lo zoo? non l'avrei mai immaginato». Quel che resta dello zoo dei Giardini di via Palestro a Milano: gli animali, l'Impero e le memorie in città, Comunicare la storia, 2023
10. M. Fantò, Muti G., Pecorelli V., 2023 "Toponomastica transfemminista come pratica performativa: una lettura geografica" in: Rossetto T., Peterle G., Gallanti C., (a cura di) Idee, testi, rappresentazioni. Pensare, raccontare, immaginare il movimento, Atti del XXXIII Congresso Geografico Italiano, Padova, 18-23 settembre 2021, Volume 3, CLUEP, Padova, pp. 280-285.

Although this course is held in Italian, for Erasmus students, course material can also be available in English, and students can take the exam in English if they wish to do so.

Assessment methods

For all students, the final exam will consist of an oral interview aimed at verifying the knowledge acquired through critical study of the texts included in the exam syllabus and the work carried out in class.

The choice of the oral interview as the examination method is consistent with the objectives of the course, as it allows, through a dialogic communicative situation, interaction with the student in order to assess their critical understanding of the course topics, their pedagogical analysis skills, and their ability to connect theory and practice.

There are two examination options:

- For attending students, participation in synchronous and blended learning activities and group work is required; in addition, the preparation and presentation of a PowerPoint on *The Sense of Place: Orientation, Disorientation*.
- For non-attending students, the final exam consists of an oral interview.

The oral interview is intended to verify knowledge of the materials listed in the bibliography, in order to acquire competencies on the topics covered by the instructor through lectures and classroom discussions, which can also be consulted through the PDF lecture slides uploaded to the website.

The assessment will be graded on a scale out of thirty, according to the following evaluation criteria:

Failing grade (insufficient):

The student:

- does not identify the characteristics of the concepts and is unable to formulate a coherent explanation;
- is not able to apply the concepts to different territorial realities;
- provides only a basic argument, and does not use disciplinary language correctly;
- cannot imagine didactic applications of the concepts and struggles to connect different experiences in a coherent framework.

18–24:
The student:

- only partially identifies the characteristics of the concepts and sometimes cannot formulate a coherent explanation;
- is only partially able to apply the concepts to different territorial realities;
- develops an imprecise argument, and does not always use disciplinary language correctly;
- applies the concepts to didactic activities imprecisely, and has some difficulties connecting different experiences in a coherent framework.

25–30:
The student:

- identifies the characteristics of the concepts and is able to formulate a coherent explanation;
- is able to apply the concepts to different territorial realities;
- develops precise arguments, and uses disciplinary language correctly;
- is able to apply the concepts to didactic activities and connects different experiences in a coherent framework.

Incoming Erasmus students will be provided with alternative reading material in English (or another language) and will have the opportunity to take the exam in a language other than Italian.

Students with specific learning disabilities (DSA) who wish to make use of compensatory tools are kindly requested to send their *P.Uo.I.* at least ten days before the exam.

Office hours

From Monday to Friday, by appointment by e-mail

marcella.schmidt@unimib.it

Programme validity

Programs are valid two academic years

Course tutors and assistants

Course tutor:

Dott. Massimiliano Fanto'

Sustainable Development Goals

GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | CLIMATE ACTION