UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Migration, Boundaries and Diversity

2526-2-F8803N013

Learning objectives

The course aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Knowledge and Understanding
   Students will acquire the analytical and methodological tools necessary to examine the relationship between the governance of international migration, the reconfiguration and multiplication of internal and external borders of nation-states, the processes through which cultural otherness is socio-politically constructed, and contemporary manifestations of racism, both at a systemic level and in everyday practices.

2. Ability to Apply Knowledge and Understanding
   Students will learn to:

- disentangle the seemingly indissoluble link between migration and security concerns;
- analyse migration policies at different levels—supranational, national, and local—by comparatively identifying the elements of continuity and discontinuity that characterise them, the power asymmetries they contribute to reproducing, and the effects they generate on dominant representations of cultural otherness;
- grasp the centrality of boundary work in the construction of otherness, both at the political-institutional level and in everyday practices;
- recognise the multiple contemporary forms in which racism manifests itself.

3. Independent Judgment
   Students will be encouraged to take informed positions and to argue effectively and appropriately on highly controversial issues that are at the core of current public debate.

4. Communication Skills
   Students will develop the ability to:

- effectively present—including through visual means—a selection of readings that will be covered during the course;
- discuss and argue persuasively about the issues addressed in class;
- draft a paper on an agreed topic related to the course programme.

5. Learning Skills
   Students will be able to experiment with innovative practices in the field of intercultural relations.

Contents

The course programme involves an in-depth exploration of six thematic areas:

1. The categories for analysing human mobility.
2. Immigration policies as the multiscalar governance of international migration.
3. The role of immigrant policies in the construction of otherness.
4. The debate on multiculturalism.
5. An introduction to intercultural communication.
6. Racism.

Detailed program

The six core thematic areas of the course will be structured as follows:

1. Categories for Analysing Human Mobility:

- bureaucratic-administrative devices and scientific research on international migration;
- immigration as a social construction;
- making up people.

2. Immigration Policies as the Multiscalar Governance of International Migration:

- immigration policies vs. immigrant policies: the centrality of control policies;
- the evolution of control policies in Europe;
- immigration from an economic issue to a security issue;
- borderscapes: reconfiguration and multiplication of borders;
- forced migration and the right of asylum;
- the European asylum regime;
- asylum seekers between stigmatisation and victimisation.

3. The Role of Immigrant Policies in the Construction of Otherness:

- traditional models of integration in Europe and their recent transformations;
- local, national, and supranational configurations and their interactions;
- neo-assimilationism, multiculturalism, interculture;
- the Italian case.

4. The Debate on Multiculturalism:

- cultural differences and everyday boundary work;

- citizenship, belonging, identity;
- practices and acts of citizenship;
- diversity policies and urban transformations;
- the consumption of difference.

5. An Introduction to Intercultural Communication:

- sociology of the stranger;
- dimensions of cultural variability;
- cultural differences and interaction.

6. Racism:

- from biology to culture?
- political and media discourse on migration and cultural differences;
- the securitisation of immigration;
- the spectacle of the border;
- institutional racism and ethno-racial discrimination;
- everyday racism.

Prerequisites

None

Teaching methods

The course will be taught in Italian.

Lectures (DE): 21 class hours.
Interactive teaching (DI): 35 class hours (including presentation and discussion of texts and group exercises).

No remote teaching activities are planned.

Assessment methods

Students may choose between:

- a paper, to be agreed upon with the teacher, on a topic related to the course programme;
- an oral examination.

Assessment criteria (applicable both to the paper and the oral examination):

- appropriate and accurate use of sociological terminology;
- ability to identify, organise, and present topics clearly and precisely;
- ability to make connections among the various topics;
- completeness.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The reference texts for students who choose the path involving participation in classroom activities will be presented during the first lecture of the course and, where possible, will be made available in PDF format.

Reference texts for preparing the oral examination:

1. I seguenti articoli disponibili nella sezione reading list della pagina del corso:
    - Colombo A., 2012, *Fuori Controllo* (pp.19-37 e bibliografia);
    - Lahav G., Messina A.M., 2024, *Immigration, Security, and the Liberal State* (pp. 1-29):
    - Maneri M., 2009, *I media e la guerra alle migrazioni*, in Palidda S. (a cura di), *Razzismo democratico*;
    - Morning A., Maneri M., 2023, *An Ugly Word* (pp. 1-25, 154-173);
    - Rivera A., 2001, *Etnia-Etnicità* (in Gallissot R., Kilani M., Rivera A., *L'imbroglio etnico in quattordici parole chiave*, pp. 122-150);
    - Rivera A., 2001, *Neorazzismo* (in Gallissot R., Kilani M., Rivera A., *L'imbroglio etnico in quattordici parole chiave*, pp. 279-309);

2. Colombo E., 2020, *Sociologia delle relazioni interculturali*, Carocci.

3. Quassoli F., 2021, *Clandestino. Il governo delle migrazioni nell'Italia contemporanea*, Meltemi.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS