UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Sports, Spaces and Society

2526-2-F4901N118

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding
Provide the main coordinates of contemporary sports policies in respect to the lines of development of cities in recent decades.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding
Develop ability to analyze territorial transformations and urban management policies.

Autonomy of judgment
Stimulate critical reading of urban processes. Foster the ability to interpret specific aspects of social organization as deeply connected to long-term social dynamics.

Communication skills
Refine 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 and sports policies as a means of constructing urban imaginaries and city governance.

Contents

The course offers an analysis of sport, as a social practice and as a policy field, as a fundamentaland paradigmatic element in the construction of contemporary spatial management and territorial transformation policies. The characteristics of sport in historical perspective and with particular attention to contemporary sport will be explored. A reflection will be presented about the main ways in which sport enters the different levels of management of urban and territorial policies.

Detailed program

The course will address the issue of the relationship between sports and the territory, focusing in particular on the following topics:
Sport as a social analysis perspective.
Contemporary social and spatial transformations.
Contemporary sport.
Sport and globalization.
Sport and urban branding.
Major sporting events and urban policy.
Sport and social regeneration.
Sport, security and social control.
Sportivization.
Sports spaces: fan zones, stadiums and more.
Sport and tourism.

Prerequisites

None

Teaching methods

- Lectures
- Case study presentation workshops
- Case study exercises

The Course consists of 49 hours, of which approximately 50 percent (that is about 24.5 hours!) 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 12 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

Presentations of academic articles to be selected from the e-learning platform. The articles, mostly ar in English, ill be indicated during the course.

Evaluation of a paper produced and presented during the course on topics proposed in the early weeks of the course.

For all other students, the exam will be oral.

The bibliography is composed of a selection of articles/chapters of books in English available on e-learning platform.

Expository clarity, accuracy of terminology, critical analysis skills will be evaluated.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

1. Tosi, S. (2018). Cultural stadi. Calcio, città, consumi e politiche. Milano: Ledizioni.
2. Wilcox R.C., Andrews D.L., “Sport in the City. Cultural, Economic, and Political Portraits”, in Wilcox R.C., Andrews D.L., Pitter R., Irwin R.L. (2003). Sporting Dystopias : The Making and Meanings of Urban Sport Cultures. Albany: SUNY Press, pp. 1-16.
3. Schimmel, K. S. (2015). Assessing the sociology of sport: On sport and the city. International Review for the Sociology of Sport, 50(4–5), pp. 591–595.
4. Pye, P. N., Cuskelly, G., & Toohey, K. (2016). Social benefits and the planning of the East Manchester Sportcity. Managing Sport and Leisure, 21(6), pp. 375–398.
5. Smith, A. (2010). The Development of “Sports-City” Zones and Their Potential Value as Tourism Resources for Urban Areas. European Planning Studies, 18(3), pp. 385–410.
6. Ricatti, F., Dutto, M., & del Bono, A. (2022). Sport, social inclusion and the logic of assimilation in Prato (Italy). International Review for the Sociology of Sport, 57(1), pp. 129–145.
7. Gammon, S., & Robinson, T. (2003). Sport and Tourism: A Conceptual Framework. Journal of Sport & Tourism, 8(1), pp. 21–26.
8. Gammon, S., & Fear, V. (2005). Stadia tours and the power of backstage. Journal of Sport & Tourism, 10(4), pp. 243–252.

Sustainable Development Goals

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | LIFE BELOW WATER | LIFE ON LAND | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS