UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

# COURSE SYLLABUS

# Laboratory 2 - Tourism in the era of the global ecological crisis

**2526-2-F4901N092**

## Learning objectives

This workshop analyses tourism in the context of the global ecological and climate crisis, questioning traditional tourism practices and critically examining the sector's proposals for sustainability. The aim is not only to understand the impact of tourism on the environment, but also to explore strategies and alternatives for imagining forms of tourism that are compatible with a planet in crisis. The workshop is based on an interdisciplinary approach and adopts tools from political ecology, critical geography and environmental studies.
Through the analysis of case studies and practical examples, the course will illustrate different ways of responding to these challenges, considering different levels of action: individuals, communities, businesses and governments.
The main objective is to develop an interdisciplinary workshop that allows students to acquire skills to approach tourism in a critical and cross-cutting manner:

- Knowledge and understanding
  Students will be able to demonstrate a critical, advanced and interdisciplinary understanding of the challenges facing tourism in the current ecological, climate and social crisis.
- Ability to apply knowledge and understanding
  Students will be able to apply theoretical and analytical tools to analyse concrete cases in the tourism sector, identifying sustainable solutions and transformative strategies suitable for different contexts and levels of intervention.
- Autonomy of judgement
  Students will be able to critically evaluate complex issues related to tourism sustainability, considering social, environmental and economic implications, and formulating independent and reasoned judgements.
- Communication skills
  Students will be able to effectively communicate analyses, strategies and solutions in both written and oral form, even in multidisciplinary contexts and with non-specialist audiences.
- Learning skills
  Students will develop autonomous and advanced learning skills, useful for undertaking further studies or professional activities in the field of sustainable tourism and territorial policies.

## Contents

This workshop provides analytical and operational tools to understand the challenges faced by tourism in the context of global ecological and climate crises. Activities are aimed at critically analyzing current tourism practices and designing alternative strategies with low environmental impact. Through case studies, practical exercises and in-class discussions, students will explore topics such as:

- ecological crisis and territorial transformations
- sustainability and environmental justice in tourism
- climate impacts of tourism activities
- responsible tourism practices and strategies
- actors and governance levels in tourism policies
- analytical tools and planning methods in unstable contexts
  The approach is interdisciplinary and action-oriented, with the goal of developing both critical thinking and practical skills in the field of sustainable tourism.

## Detailed program

The workshop aims to develop and consolidate analytical and practical skills related to the practice of tourism and its impacts, in the context of the climate, ecological and social crisis.
A fundamental part of the course will be the identification and development of appropriate responses by the tourism sector, distinguishing between the different levels of action and tools available.
Each section will focus on a central theme of tourism practice, such as the climate crisis, ecological impacts and social sustainability, providing analytical tools and presenting examples of innovative solutions.
Case studies will be the focus of the workshop. Students will:
• critically analyse issues, considering the context, the actors involved and existing institutions
• explore tools and strategies to reduce the climate, ecological and social impact of tourism
• address concrete problems, assessing the limits and opportunities for action for individuals, communities, businesses and institutions
In this context, research and analytical and critical skills will become essential for developing sustainable and viable solutions.

## Prerequisites

To participate in the workshop, students must meet the following requirements:

- Basic knowledge of tourism and environmental issues.
- Knowledge of English

## Teaching methods

Laboratory activities will be carried out through Erogative Didactics (ED) and Interactive Didactics (ID)).
Erogative Didactics (ED) will consist of face-to-face classroom teaching, focusing on the presentation and introduction of general content on the topic of the workshop section (there will be 6 sections in total), important concepts for interpreting sustainability issues and analytical tools that will enable students to critically analyse case studies and evaluate possible actions and solutions to contemporary environmental problems.

Interactive teaching (ID) will be the practical time in the laboratory where students will have to analyse sustainability-related case studies and projects. The interactive activities will mainly consist of individual and group work to discuss and analyse the case studies and develop – based on the conditions of each case – possible virtuous actions to improve the socio-environmental conditions present.
The workshop lasts a total of twenty-four hours. Activities will be distributed with a variability ranging from 7 to 9 hours dedicated to teaching and 14 to 17 hours reserved for interactive teaching, depending on the topics covered and the case studies analysed.

## Assessment methods

Learning assessment will be based on two main elements:

- Active participation in classroom activities, including discussions, exercises and case study analysis.
- Individual or group final presentation, focusing on a case study, project or topic covered during the workshop. The presentation should highlight the ability to apply the analytical tools acquired, critically analyse the issues addressed and propose solutions consistent with the course objectives.

## Textbooks and Reading Materials

The teaching materials will be made available before each section by the workshop leader and will include a reference text for each topic covered (e.g. energy, agriculture, mobility, etc.) and a selection of case studies. The texts and cases will be chosen based on their relevance to the analysis of sustainability issues, the availability of data and accessibility for all students.

## Sustainable Development Goals

CLIMATE ACTION