UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Governance, Innovation and Inclusion

2526-2-F8802N065

Learning objectives

There are two objectives, complementary to each other:
• To acquire conceptual and analytical tools for the study of local governance processes, in Europe and in Italy, with particular attention to social innovation experiences aimed at inclusion
• To define a basic toolbox for designing social innovation

The specific objectives are as follows:
Knowledge and understanding: Provide theoretical skills useful for understanding the governance and the social innovation
Ability to apply knowledge and understanding: Provide an overview of the main methods of analyzing the governance and the social innovation
Autonomy of judgment: Encourage critical reading of social processes
Communication skills: Refine both oral and written communication tools
Learning skills: Foster an attitude of openness towards the complexity of social reality

Contents

a) Theories and research on two thematic fields: local governance; social innovation
b) Exercises on the analysis of social innovation experiences

Detailed program

Governance and social innovation are "umbrella concepts", which involve heterogeneous phenomena and perspectives that are not always coherent with each other.

The first part of the course is dedicated to the systematization of the conceptual and analytical issues relating to the two themes, to orient ourselves in the broad debate that has developed on them in recent years.
The second part delves into the research on social innovation conducted in recent decades in Italy and Europe, referring in particular to the innovative processes undertaken in the context of urban welfare.
Finally, the third part involves the in-depth analysis of some cases, including with on-site visits, and the identification of some social innovation design criteria.

Prerequisites

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Mastery of basic theoretical and methodological knowledge, good learning, writing and oral communication skills.

Teaching methods

The course is organized in presence. The course implies significant use of interactive teaching (60%) with classroom exercises, discussion of papers, drafts of research projects, etc..

Assessment methods

Attending students will be required to take a midterm and a final test
For non-attending students, an oral test is scheduled
The exam will assess the ability to correctly apply the theories and concepts covered in class, as well as to independently analyse specific cases. The final assessment will measure the level of skills acquired and the level of autonomy in analytical application.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Bifulco L., Dodaro M., 2018, Local welfare governance and social innovation: the ambivalence of the political dimension, in Politics and conflict in governance and planning : theory and practice / edited by Ayda Eraydin and Klaus Frey. Publisher. New York, NY : Routledge.
Mingione, E., Vicari Haddock, S. (2015) Politiche urbane e innovazione sociale. In: Calafati A. (ed.), Città tra sviluppo e declino. Un'agenda urbana per l'Italia. Roma, Donzelli Editore, pp.97-108.
Moulaert, F., Martinelli, F. & González, S. (2007) Social Innovation and governance in European Cities: Urban developments between the path dependency and radical innovation. European Urban and Regional Studies, 14(3), 195-209.
Barbera F., Parisi T., 2019, Innovatori sociali, Il Mulino, Bologna (chapters 1 and 2)
Bifulco L., 2017, Social policies and public action, Routledge (chapter 9)

Other texts will be indicated before the start of the course

Sustainable Development Goals

CLIMATE ACTION