UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Population, Inequalities and Wellbeing

2526-1-F8205B024

Learning objectives

This course aims to provide the theoretical framework and the tools needed to understand the inequalities and the well-being of individuals in the field of health and lifestyles.

Knowledge and understanding
This course will provide knowledge and understanding of the following topics: Methods for measuring and comparing population survival; Health inequalities; The assessment of population and individual well-being.

Applying knowledge and understanding
At the end of the course the students will be able to: measuring the socio-demographic differentials in mortality and health; explaining the relations between context factors and well-being.

Making judgements
Through the individual development of reports based on case studies, students will have the opportunity to develop critical analysis and judgment skills in relation to the cases examined.

Communication skills
Students will be required to prepare an individual presentation on an in-depth topic selected from a list provided by the instructor. A guideline outlining the structure of the presentation will be made available. The presentation will be discussed among course participants under the supervision of the instructor.

Learning skills
For each of the proposed presentation topics, the instructor will provide an initial bibliography. Students will be strongly encouraged to expand this bibliography in order to deepen their own understanding and to enrich the knowledge of their peers during the presentation.

The class allows the student to acquire solid grounds in the application of statistics to biostatistic and demographic working contexts.

Contents

- The transitions: epidemiologic and demographic (1st and 2nd)
- Measurement of mortality
- Social epidemiology
- Well-being, quality of life
- Happy life expectancy

Detailed program

The transitions: epidemiologic and demographic (1st and 2nd):

1. epidemiologic transition;
2. evolution of death causes;

Mortality measures:

1. causes of death (cause-elimination life tables, multiple decrement life tables)
2. sex and age differentials;
3. social differentials.

Social epidemiology:

1. fragility, disability and chronicity;
2. inequalities in health;
3. measuring good health.

Well-being and quality of life:

1. theories and measurements;
2. happy life expectancy.

Prerequisites

None

Teaching methods

6 2-hour sessions, delivered in a lecture-based format and conducted in person;
6 3-hours sessions, delivered in a lecture-based format during the initial phase, with the aim of fostering interactive student engagement in the subsequent phase. All activities are conducted in person;
6 2-hour sessions delivered in a lecture-based format, conducted remotely in synchronous mode.

Assessment methods

- **Attending Students**
  Assessment is based on an oral examination. The exam consists of a discussion of the topics covered during the lectures, including 4 individual intermediate assignments (scientific laboratory reports) and 1 presentation on a topic of the student's choice, selected from those proposed by the instructor.
  The oral exam focuses on the discussion of the written work independently produced by the students during the course.
  The goal of the examination is to assess both theoretical understanding and the ability to apply relevant analytical tools to concrete research topics.
  The evaluation of the intermediate assignments (graded from 1 to 6 points each) contributes cumulatively to the final grade.

- **Non-Attending Students**
  Assessment is based on an oral examination. The exam consists of a discussion of the topics covered during the course.
  It aims to assess an in-depth understanding of the course content and the ability to engage with applied research issues.
  The objective is to evaluate the student's theoretical competence and their ability to transfer such knowledge to practical contexts.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Eyal, N., Hurst, S. A., Norheim, O. F., & Wikler, D. (Eds.). 2013. Inequalities in health: concepts, measures, and ethics. Oxford University Press.
Lutz, W. (2017). Studying the Demography of Sustainable Human Wellbeing: Empowered Life Years (ELY) as Sustainability Criterion.
Micheli G.A. 2011. Demografie. McGraw-Hill (Cap. 1,3,4 e 8-Lez. 8.3)
Pinnelli A., Racioppi F., Rettaroli R. 2003. Genere e demografia. Il Mulino (Parte Quinta: Genere e sopravvivenza)
Siegel, J. S. 2011. The demography and epidemiology of human health and aging. Springer Science & Business Media (selected chapters).

Lecture notes by the teacher

Semester

2nd semester, approximately in the period March 1st - April 15th

Teaching language

Italian

Sustainable Development Goals

REDUCED INEQUALITIES