UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Nuovi Rischi e Riconfigurazioni Urbane

2526-1-F8805N008

Learning objectives

At the end of the course, students will have acquired knowledge of the most recent and important territorial transformations affecting urban environments, as well as greater ease in reading the dynamics of social change through the analysis of their interaction with the territories in which they occur. The territorial approach allows social phenomena to be placed in real local contexts, at different scales (from European to national and local/metropolitan), providing the basic tools to question similar dynamics in different territories and evaluate their specific modes of realisation.

Students will be able to:

DdD1. Knowledge and understanding
• Know the main territorial, social and environmental transformations affecting urban and metropolitan areas.
• Understand the concept of urban risk in social, environmental and economic terms.
• Become familiar with sociological theories and contributions relating to urban vulnerabilities.
• Understand the fundamentals of urban ecology and the role of ecosystem services in cities.

DdD2. Applied knowledge and understanding
• Apply theoretical and methodological tools to analyse socio-territorial dynamics at local and metropolitan scale.
• Analyse real case studies to identify risk factors and urban governance strategies.
• Recognise the impacts of socio-demographic transformations on local welfare and social cohesion.

DdD3. Independent judgement
• Develop critical skills in recognising and interpreting the interactions between social dynamics and territorial transformations.
• Formulate independent judgements on territorial planning and governance choices in contexts of risk and vulnerability.
• Recognise the limitations and opportunities of existing urban development models in relation to sustainability objectives (social, economic and environmental).

DdD4. Communication skills
• Communicate with appropriate language, using the concepts and technical terms of territorial and sociological analysis correctly.
• Express the results of urban and metropolitan context analysis in a clear and structured manner, including through the use of data and maps.
• Argue logically and coherently, providing relevant examples, on urban and metropolitan issues in academic and professional contexts.

DdD5. Learning skills
• Acquire an integrated study method, combining theoretical analysis and empirical observation, useful for dealing with complex urban contexts.
• Develop the ability to critically approach scientific texts and policy documents related to urban transformations.

Contents

In the light of the importance of guaranteeing sustainability objectives, contemporary cities and metropolitan territories are faced with the need to plan their development in compliance with these, within a framework of growing threats and risks to social and territorial, environmental and economic cohesion (spread of new diseases; extraordinary climatic events; territorial conflicts; ...).
The main theme of the course is the study of the environmental, social and economic risk elements that threaten metropolitan (and other) territories and the methodological and theoretical tools for developing knowledge useful to respond to these risks in territorial planning. Attention will also be paid to the methods of territorial analysis (of a quantitative type, through the use of statistical and spatial analysis software), as well as to the study of strategies and policies useful for the development of metropolitan contexts and the socio-technical systems that comprise them (mobility, ecosystem services, social services, ...).

Particular attention will be paid to study methods and dynamics inherent to:

- Society (urban/metropolitan populations and their relations; demographic transformations; conflicts; local welfare; ...)
- Urban development and socio-territorial planning (governance and tools for territorial management and planning)
- Energy and resources (sustainability; efficiency policies; ...)

Detailed program

The course aims to provide students with tools and concepts for an in-depth analysis and knowledge of the most recent dynamics of social transformation and their impact on local contexts, with particular attention to urban and metropolitan contexts. These transformations, intervening in given socio-technical systems, contribute to undermine their prerequisites and consequently reduce their capacity to respond to the new needs generated, giving rise to new forms of risk to the resilience of societies and new forms of vulnerability.
Through a review of the main theories and contributions from the sociological (and other) literature, the course aims to problematise some of the most relevant dimensions of risk. Divided into four modules, each focusing on one of these, the course will address:

Module 1 (14h)
The evolution of urban and metropolitan forms. The reference context of the course are urban territories, but what is meant by urban and city nowadays? The module addresses this issue to provide the framework through which to interpret the forms of risk affecting urban and metropolitan areas and the consequent forms of organising

responses to them. The evolution of the metropolitan level in Italy will be analysed (forms and dynamics) as well as its role in integrating local policies and balancing the imbalances between centres and peripheries.

Module 2 (14h)
Territorial governance for metropolitan cities will be dealt with starting from the different populations that live in them (the main actors), analysing the conflicts between interests and uses of the city and between the cities and territories themselves. In this, special attention will be paid to the socio-demographic transformations that have affected these contexts, such as gentrification processes. The focus, while concentrated on the Italian context, will not neglect, where possible, to maintain a comparative look with at least the European context. In order to equip itself with a base of analytical tools useful for the study of transformations in urban and metropolitan contexts, the methods of territorial analysis will be introduced, with a preference for its quantitative component.

Module 3 (14h)
The transformations and risks related to **new forms of poverty and the challenges for the (particularly local) welfare state**. Starting from the discussion of the systematic fragility and loss of guarantees of traditional socialisation and stability agencies, the most recent and relevant socio-demographic transformations that determine them, and their impact on actors and the local welfare system will be discussed.

Module 4 (14h)
Urban contexts are affected, like the globe as a whole, by risks related to environmental transformations due to the impact of human activities. Indeed, a crucial aspect of life in urban areas is **the supply and management of resources**. The introduction to the elements of urban ecology and the analysis of supply systems (of energy and goods), of new forms of responding to needs (also in the light of recent transformations and shocks) and of the role of urban ecosystem services, allow us to grasp the elements useful for interpreting needs and prospects.

Prerequisites

Sufficient knowledge of logic and general culture.

Teaching methods

The course will consist of face-to-face lectures on the main topics to introduce the basic thematic concepts and macro-phenomena, in accordance with a didactic delivery (DE) setting, for 2/3 of the course. Useful case studies will also be presented and discussed to deepen and make more concrete the topics addressed elsewhere at a more theoretical level, also in laboratory form (in Interactive Didactics, DI mode) for about 1/3 of the course, and with the participation of external guests (professionals and academics) as well as in-depth thematic discussions.

Assessment methods

Attending and non-attending students will be assessed through an individual written exam on the chapters of books and articles included in the exam materials.

The assessment criteria for the written test (for attending and non-attending students) are:

1. language property - appropriate use of technical and thematic terms;
2. accuracy in the logical exposition of topics;

3. ability to construct connections between the various topics;
4. ability to provide concrete and relevant examples with reference to the topics addressed
5. completeness of exposition given the time and page limits available.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

A handout of selected chapters and/or articles will be made available to students.

Sustainable Development Goals

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS