UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Cultural aspects of the climate crisis: meanings, denials and desires of environmental relatedness

2526-102R-05

Title

Cultural aspects of the climate crisis: meanings, denials and desires of relatedness

Teacher

Mauro Van Aken

Language

English

Short description

Climate changes are a definitely a geophysical dynamic, but represent a very cultural and social issue in their impacts, causes and emotional dimensions. Departing from anthropological perspective, combined with tools of different disciplines of the human sciences that are reshuffling the nature/culture divide of modern carbon economy, we will analyze together the multiple cultural and symbolical aspect of environmental relatedness in different societies. This will allow to tackle issues, at the center of research in the Anthropocene, as cultural models of the environmental relatedness, petro-cultures, its symbolical apparatus and complicities, cultural processes of

denial and the social relations with/in the atmosphere.

Target audience

The course is transversal to all schools of PhD in presence: we'll make of the multiplicity of your disciplinary trajectories the focus, in relation to ideas and notions of "nature" and environment at stake

Both seminars will have a seminar setting with active participation and focus group. This impedes a hybrid setting and digital connection unfortunately.
The first 4 hours will be a laboratory setting where we will depart from your perceptions of climate changes (thus presence will be crucial), while the second part a following focus on some main aspects of the “unthinkable” of the climate crisis.
Here some main notions that will be at stake:
-the nature/culture dualism of our cosmology ijn comparison to others way of giving meaning to environmental relations and nonhuman actors
-social meanings of the athmosphere
-petro-cultures and symbolical meanings of fossul fuels and CO2

Seen the methodology used, the course, even more in its laboratorial aspects, it requests an active presence in class of participants.

Maximum number of participans

Min 10 Max 40

Assessment method

presence and laboratory participations

CFU / Hours

1 CFU-8 hours

Teaching period and mode

03/02/26 9 am - 1 pm U6-34
17/02/26 2 pm - 6 pm U6-34

course registration on “Segreterie online”: from 07/01/2026 to 29/01/2026

Sustainable Development Goals

CLIMATE ACTION