UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Reading the world through gendered lens: a methodological reflection

2526-102R-19

Title

“Reading the world through gendered lens: a methodological reflection”

Teacher

Sveva Magaraggia, Associate professor of Sociology of Culture, Dept. of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milan-Bicocca & Carmen Leccardi, Emerita professor of Sociology of Culture, Dept. of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milano-Bicocca
(coordinators)

Francesca Casnati, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Dept. of Design, Politecnico of Milan;
Francesca de Vecchi, Associate professor, Faculty of Philosophy, University Vita-Salute San Raffaele;
Francesca Forlè, Lecturer, Faculty of Philosophy, University Vita-Salute San Raffaele;
Laura Formenti, Full professor, Dept. of Human Sciences for Education, University of Milan-Bicocca;
Costanza Nardocci, Associate professor, Dept. of Italian and Supranational Public Law, University of Milan;
Graziella Romeo, Associate professor, Dept. of Law, University Luigi Bocconi;

The professors are part of the Inter-University Research Centre ‘Gender Cultures’, based at the University of Milan.

Language

English

Short description

The seminars and lectures will explore gender issues through a diverse array of approaches and perspectives.
The first seminar will focus on the concept of gender, tracing its historical evolution and examining its implications within cultural, social, and political analyses. Feminist research methodologies will be introduced and critically discussed throughout the session.
The second seminar will insist on the (trans)formative quality of feminist-critical-dialogic pedagogies, and a pedagogy of discomfort/difference, from the point of view of adult education, identity building and a practical theory of learning, both in formal and informal contexts.
The third seminar will analyze the evolution of legal frameworks concerning gender equality, with a particular emphasis on constitutional principles and their interpretation in constitutional jurisprudence and case law. Additionally, the session will address gender-based economic inequalities, exploring their causes and highlighting their negative impact on productivity and economic growth.
The fourth seminar will provide a short introduction to phenomenology and its application to gender; the seminar will show that concepts of “sex” and “gender” can be fruitfully examined and revised in the light of phenomenological concepts – “physical body” and “living body”, “body schema” and “body image”, “ownership and agency”. The latter part of the seminar will address issues related to discrimination through images from the disciplinary perspective of communication design. Participants will be equipped with tools to deconstruct gender stereotypes and visual emblems prevalent in contemporary cultural systems.
Upon completion of the course, PhD students will gain insights into feminist research methodologies and develop a nuanced understanding of the limits of the principle of equality and non-discrimination.

Short list of topics: gender and its meaning, media stereotypes and gender, gender related rights, scientific research and women’s economic empowerment. The course involves the following disciplines: sociology, education, communication, law, economics and philosophy.

Target audience

All PhD Students

Maximum number of participans

35

Assessment method

Short essay (2-5 pages) about a theme related to one of the lessons.

CFU / Hours

2 CFU / 16 hours

Teaching period and mode

15/01/2026 2.30 pm - 6.30 pm U9-09
“Introduction to the concept of Gender and to feminist research methods”. Sveva Magaraggia (with Carmen Leccardi)

29/01/2026 9.30 am - 1.30 pm (online)
“The long way of equality: from case law to economic inequalities”. Costanza Nardocci (with Graziella Romeo)

05/02/2026 9.30 am - 1.30 pm U9-09
“Gender identities: phenomenology and visual culture”. Francesca Forlè (with Francesca Casnati)

11/02/2026 2.30 pm - 6.30 pm U6-29
“Biographic and cooperative research methods as transformative dialogic practices for gendered identities”. Laura Formenti**

In presence and online

course registration on “Segreterie online”: from 19/12/2025 to 11/01/2026

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS