UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Avere cura dello spazio pubblico

2526-BbetweenSDG-SpazioP

Module description

Debate within many disciplines has shown that taking care of public space is a fundamental lever for promoting sustainable practices and long-term transformative actions: building meaningful relationships with places, particularly those in our everyday lives, has been shown to facilitate attitudes of care towards the environment. Based on this evidence, the module aims to explore the main theoretical and methodological frameworks of ecological and outdoor education as keys to analysing the different ways in which informal social spaces are used in urban contexts. In a continuous dialogue between theory and practice, the module will first explore and then design and test participatory actions aimed at stimulating attention on Piazza Ateneo Nuovo, the ways in which it is used and the forms of care for a place that is a space for meeting, socialising and celebrating for the entire university population.

Learning goals

- To increase theoretical and methodological knowledge in the field of educational experiences design in dialogue with urban studies
- To design and implement participatory actions in public spaces
- To increase organisational skills while improving the management of collective decision-making processes
- To deepen theoretical and methodological knowledge with regard to the removal of architectural barriers and universal design
- To increase the involvement with the University taking responsibility as a place of daily life for its academic community

General goal

The overall objective of the course is to increase the ability to translate information and models from different disciplines into knowledge and behaviours relating to sustainability in urban areas, as well as to link the care of places with the cross-cutting areas of sustainability (social, environmental, economic).

Specific skills and competences

- Basic skills in place-based education programmes to promote sustainable behaviour
- Specific knowledge in the field of urban sustainability policies.

Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 UN Agenda

Goal 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

Goal 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Goal 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Breakdown of meetings

The module includes face-to-face meetings, design activities and practical exercises.
In detail, the programme will be structured as follows:

Introductory meeting to the module and participatory actions in public spaces (3h)
Seminar to explore sustainability and management of public space (3h)
Two meetings to design a participatory action in the public space (3h)
Four practical field activities in Piazza dell'Ateneo Nuovo (12h)

Number of participants

20

Language used in meetings

Italian

Delivery period of the module

April/July 2026

Methods of assessing the outcomes of the learning process

A project work will be required.

Department of affiliation of the teacher

Department of Human Sciences for Education “Riccardo Massa”.

Sustainable Development Goals