UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

The public value of urban space. Theories, policies and practices

2526-Bbetween-TPP-04

Module description

The module will introduce students to the analysis of cities from an anthropological perspective. Particular attention will be paid, on the one hand, to theories that allow us to investigate urban space through a relational approach, understood as something both produced by and producing social relations; on the other hand, to the policies and practices that contribute to shaping it in everyday life and in the nuances of social life. The city of Milan will serve as a case study to explore some issues that have become increasingly central to public debate: housing, segregation, and urban regeneration. Finally, the methodology of action research in urban contexts will be considered as a possible way of conducting research that is attentive to the complexity of reality and social change.

Learning goals

The aim is to promote understanding of urban space as a political and cultural phenomenon, encouraging critical reflection on its importance as a factor of social change.

General goal

Encouraging a critical view of cities and their socio-spatial organization.

Specific skills and competences

None

Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 UN Agenda

Sustainable cities and communities; Quality education.

Breakdown of meetings

Five meetings divided into an introductory lesson and four thematic seminars (topics: housing, segregation, territorial regeneration, action research) with case studies taken from the city of Milan.
Each meeting will be structured in two parts, the first lecture-based, the second interactive. Attendees will be given compulsory reading starting from the second lesson (articles or book chapters).

Number of participants

Free

Language used in meetings

English

Delivery period of the module

Seminar room (4th floor, building U6)
Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Friday, May 8, 2026, 8:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Friday, May 15, 2026, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Friday, May 29, 2026, 8:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

Methods of assessing the outcomes of the learning process

For those who wish to have the module recognized, by completing it together with the other three teaching units included in the course “Social inclusion and public value,” a short written essay (1,500 words) is required, which will be graded. The final assessment of the course will consist of the average of the grades for the four teaching units.

Department of affiliation of the teacher

Department of Human Sciences for Education "Riccardo Massa"

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES