UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Diverging and Converging: Understanding, Practicing, and Promoting Creative Thinking in Education

2526-Bbetween-AME-04

Module description

The owner of this Badge has acquired skills and knowledge on creative thinking, supported by scientific literature that breaks down commonplaces and prejudices. Beginning with theoretical reflections and research data, the course aims to reflect and work to promote capacities to find different solutions to educational challenges. In fact, working on creativity brings with it the fundamental themes of originality and appropriateness: acting on oneself and learning through direct experience to discriminate and integrate these components allows one to overcome certain prejudices about the apparent foreignness of creative thinking to the educational field. Encouraging direct experimentation and thus building together with educators the practical skills to act out such discrimination allows on the one hand to employ creative processes to design according to the specific characteristics of the users and on the other hand to make them manifest by supporting group cohesion. The course also proposes the exploration of the relationship between the creative process and leadership and teamwork skills, supporting peer respect and developing a critical approach to diversity from an inclusive perspective.

Learning goals

The main learning objectives of the module are:

- Understand theories and methodologies related to creative thinking and its implications, potential, and challenges in education
- Prepare the practitioner to identify multiple possible answers to educational questions in order to design projects taking into account different types of target groups
- Develop specific skills to promote and support the use of functional and context-appropriate creative thinking.
- Combine theory and practice

General goal

The course aims to provide knowledge regarding theories of creativity, stimulating reflection on meanings and spaces of creative thinking in educational contexts. The overall aim refers to the co-construction of skills aimed at supporting and implementing creative thinking and processuality in educational work.

Specific skills and competences

In particular, the course aims to foster understanding of the facets of the concept of creativity as theorized and operationalized in different theoretical approaches (divergence and convergence, appropriateness, fluidity, flexibility, elaboration and originality, big c, little c and micro c, lateral thinking). In addition, it aims to support the reflection and practice of the meanings of creativity in educational spaces and times in order to think and implement interventions in respect of diversity of thinking and in openness to different possibilities and solutions to social situations and educational needs.
The course aims to co-construct knowledge and skills regarding creative thinking theories and implications in educational work with young people. The skills that will be developed are:

- Ability to interact with others in a positive and productive way, communicating ideas effectively and empathetically, coordinating one's goals and actions with those of others, and acting in structured ways based on values, ensuring the well-being and advancement of others and taking a leadership role
- Communicating, collaborating, relating and negotiating with other people, developing creative solutions to problems, designing objects and activities to promote the production of ideas and the enhancement of everyone's skills.

Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 UN Agenda

Goal 3: Health and well-being
Goal 4: Equitable and quality education
Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies geared toward sustainable development, ensure access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Breakdown of meetings

The course organized by the University of Milan-Bicocca, Department of Human Sciences for Education “Riccardo Massa” provides lectures that combine frontal teaching with active and experiential methodologies, thus combining theory and practice.

The course is structured in 2 days of 7 hours each:
Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Aula Seminari, building U6, fourth floor
Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Aula Seminari, building U6, fourth floor
Monday, May 05, 2026 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Aula Seminari, building U6, fourth floor

The meetings are taught in English by the lecturers.
The course is equivalent to 2 CFUs, it is mandatory for all students to attend in-person **at least 75% of the hours**

of the course.

Number of participants

The course is open to students attending master's degree programs at the University of Milano-Bicocca and incoming students.
The maximum number of participants admitted is unlimited.

Language used in meetings

English

Delivery period of the module

April 2026

Methods of assessing the outcomes of the learning process

This is an Activity Badge and is awarded to those who, regularly enrolled in the course have passed an assessment test consisting of the construction of a creative product. Each participant will identify a topic of interest to be explored critically from what has been discussed and experienced and with the support of material to be agreed upon with the lecturer.The final product can be constructed in different formats (e.g. text, video, podcast, music, ...).
No prerequisite input skills are required.

Department of affiliation of the teacher

Human Sciences for Education "Riccardo Massa"

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS