UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Geography and Geography Teaching - M-Z

2627-2-G8501R014-G8501R014M-MZ

Course title

Geography and didactics

Topics and course structure

The course aims to introduce students to human geography and its most recent issues, seeking to convey the richness and breadth of the subject. Human geography studies the relationships between human communities and the natural environment in their territorial expression. The course addresses some of the central themes of the discipline: culture, languages and religions, gender, development and change, urban systems, and the political organization of space. During the course, particular emphasis will be placed on the topics taught in primary and pre-primary schools and on how to make them accessible to children. A specific part of the course will deal with the theme of everyday geographies. It will also seek to encourage reflection on the ideological role of school greagraphy and on the need to adopt a critical attitude towards geographical “discourse.”
The course will be delivered in Italian and mainly throught lectures

Objectives

Through this course, with regular and active participation in lectures and the associated “laboratorio”, the following learning objectives are to be achieved:
• Introduce human geography and its most recent issues.
• Communicate the richness and breadth of the subject
• Explore the topics taught in primary and pre-primary schools.
• Adopt a critical attitude towards geographical “discourse.”
• Learn the principles of education for respect and conservation of cultural (and environmental) heritage, as well as

social and environmental sustainability
• Be able to interpret current events on different scales.
• Contribute to the development of an attitude towards renewing teaching practices through openness to research, experimentation, and innovation.

Methodologies

Lectures.
The course goes with a compulsory "laboratorio" on the teaching of geographical concepts. During the "laboratorio", students will work in groups to design a teaching activity:

• 26 two-hour lectures held in person.
• 1 two-hour lecture in which an intermediate test will be held.
• 1 two-hour exercise - writing (the essays will be discussed during the oral exam)

Online and offline teaching materials

On line and slides

Programme and references

De Vecchis G., Boria E., *Manuale di geografia*, Roma, Carocci, 2022.
Malatesta S., *Geografia dei Bambini. Luoghi, pratiche, rappresentazioni*, Milano, Guerini, 2015
De Vecchis G., Pasquinelli d'Allegra D., *Sapere e saper fare geografia. Teorie e pratiche nella scuola dell'infanzia e primaria*, Milano, UTET, 2024.
Neri, E. *Mondi Animati. Educazione geografica e cinema d'animazione*. Milano, Guerini, 2026

An alternative bibliography may be provided for Erasmus students.

Assessment methods

Type of test: Oral exam. Discussion based on a written test aimed at assessing knowledge of the main concepts of human geography, the ability to apply them to specific cases, and the ability to translate them into teaching activities aimed at helping preschool and primary school students develop spatial skills.

**The assessment criteria will focus on: **

- knowledge of the main concepts of human geography, the ability to apply them to familiar geographical areas,
- the ability to design teaching activities aimed at conveying geographical concepts to preschool and primary school students.

Halfway through the course, a two-hour lesson will be organized in which a closed-ended intermediate test will be

given to check the students' preparation of the basic concepts of the discipline. At the end of the course, a two-hour exercise will be organized in which students will write an essay which will then be discussed during the oral exam.

Assessment levels
Not sufficient:
The student:
• does not identify the characteristics of the concepts and is unable to formulate a coherent explanation;
• is unable to apply the concepts to different geographical areas;
. develops a basic argument and does not use the language of the discipline correctly;
• is unable to imagine applications of the concepts and has difficulty in linking different experiences into a coherent framework.
18-24:
The student:
• only partially identifies the characteristics of concepts and is sometimes unable to formulate a coherent explanation;
• is only partially able to apply concepts to different geographical areas;
develops an imprecise argument, does not always use the geographical lexicon correctly;
• applies concepts to teaching activities imprecisely and has some difficulty in linking different experiences within a coherent framework.
25-30
The student

• identifies the characteristics of concepts and is able to formulate a coherent explanation;
• is able to apply concepts to different geographical contexts;
• is able to develop precise arguments and uses the geographical language correctly;
• knows how to apply concepts to teaching activities and connects different experiences within a coherent framework.

Students, according to their preference, can skip the two tests and making the oral exam on the bibliography

Office hours

to schedule with the teacher

Programme validity

2 accademic years

Course tutors and assistants

Dott.ssa Erica Neri

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | CLIMATE ACTION | LIFE BELOW WATER