UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Cultural Geography

2627-3-E2001R029

Course title

Cultural Geography

Topics and course structure

The course is shared between Professor Marcella Schmidt di Friedberg who will conduct the first 12 hours of lectures and Professor Enrico Squarcina who will conduct the remaining lectures.
The programme is divided into three parts: 1) in the first part the tools (theoretical and methodological) for a critical understanding of the key themes of cultural geography will be provided; 2) in the second part the main concepts of human geography will be introduced with a critical approach, with particular attention to their cultural value; 3) the third part aims to show how the main themes of human geography and cultural geography can be applied to a concrete and little known space: the sea, which is the subject of the Decade of Sea Sciences for Sustainable Development promoted by the UN.

The course will be delivered in Italian, 70% in delivery mode and the remaining 30% in interactive mode.

Objectives

The content and structure of the course are consistent with the educational objectives of the degree programme.

Knowledge and Understanding:
The main objective of the course is to introduce students to the theoretical and methodological specificities of human geography in connection with other fields of knowledge. This course aims to promote knowledge and understanding of the content and methods of cultural geography.

Applying Knowledge and Understanding:
Students will learn to use the concepts and themes of human geography and to connect theoretical knowledge and models with concrete territorial realities. They will also develop the ability to apply geographic knowledge and models to the relationship between humans and a representative spatial environment: the sea.

Making Judgements:
Students will develop an understanding of the complexity of socio-cultural and geographical processes, learning to appreciate and value different perspectives while overcoming stereotypes and prejudices. They will be able to assess the consequences of their actions and decisions, adopting a reflective and responsible attitude.

Communication Skills:
Students will learn to clearly express ideas, knowledge, and arguments. They will be able to formulate well-founded judgments, integrating information from diverse and reliable sources.

Learning Skills:
Students will develop and refine their own learning methodologies, identifying and independently constructing topics and themes for study.

Methodologies

Lectures.

55 two-hour face-to-face lectures conducted 70% in delivery mode and 30% in interactive mode.
1 two-hour lecture with an intermediate test.

Online and offline teaching materials

Online study materials will be made available during the course.

Programme and references

Minca Claudio (a cura) (2022), Appunti di geografia, Milano, Wolters Kluwer Italia.

Squarcina Enrico (2026), Mare, terra e marinai, Milano, Unicopli.

Squarcina Enrico 2026), Terra, mare e marinai, Milano, Unicopli.

Any changes to the programme will be communicated on the course e-learning page.

Assessment methods

Oral examination. The examination will consist of an interview whose assessment criteria will focus on verifying knowledge of the main concepts of human and cultural geography and the ability to apply them to concrete cases.

Criteria for grading:
Insufficient knowledge of basic concepts of cultural geography = 0-17
Elementary knowledge of basic concepts of cultural geography = 18-24
Knowledge of concepts and ability to apply them to concrete cases = 24-30

Office hours

By appointment.

Programme validity

The programmes are valid for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

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Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | CLIMATE ACTION | LIFE BELOW WATER | LIFE ON LAND