UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Laboratorio 7 - Politiche e azioni per la sostenibilità

2627-3-E1601N086

Learning objectives

The aim of this lab is to provide the tools necessary to understand the current challenges of sustainability from an economic, political, social, and environmental point of view. The lab will illustrate – through case studies and practical examples – the different ways of responding to these challenges, considering in particular the different levels of action (e.g., individuals, communities, businesses, and governments). The aim is to develop an interdisciplinary path that allows students to acquire the training needed to address the topic of sustainability broadly and transversally. The lab will serve to develop analytical capacity (problem identification and systemic reasoning) identify transformative actions for sustainability, considering the contexts of action, the problems, and the subjects involved (public, private, etc.)

D1) Knowledge and understanding
Knowledge and understanding of the main sustainability challenges in their economic, political, social, and environmental dimensions, as well as of the concepts and tools required to analyse them from an interdisciplinary and systemic perspective.

D2) Applying knowledge and understanding
Ability to apply concepts and analytical tools to concrete sustainability problems, identifying the relevant contexts, actors, and levels of action and developing possible transformative solutions.

D3) Making judgements
Ability to critically assess sustainability problems, policies, and actions, taking into account available evidence, contextual characteristics, and the economic, social, environmental, and ethical implications of different alternatives.

D4) Communication skills
Ability to clearly and effectively present and discuss, individually or in groups, the analysis of case studies and related proposals for action, engaging with different disciplinary perspectives and viewpoints.

D5) Learning skills

Ability to independently explore sustainability issues and challenges through research, case-study analysis, and the critical use of sources and analytical tools, transferring acquired knowledge to new and multidisciplinary contexts.

Contents

The activities will be structured so as to allow students to address concrete sustainability problems by critically engaging with case studies and with the tools currently available to solve them. This will make it possible to

grasp the central notions of sustainability (history, changes, and limits)
precisely define the topic of sustainability
identify problems and solutions to promote sustainability
conduct research, define case studies, and choose appropriate tools
alternate theory and practice through exercises

Detailed program

The lab will serve to develop and consolidate analytical and practical skills related to sustainability and to the effects that the climate and ecological crisis can have on social, economic, and political life. An important part of this training consists in identifying, delimiting, and constructing adequate responses to sustainability problems – distinguishing the different levels of action, the appropriate contexts, and the social and technical construction of these responses. Each section will present a central theme for sustainability (such as energy, agriculture, health, etc.), the analytical tools currently available, and examples of innovative solutions. Case studies will be at the centre of the lab's activities, in which students will be required to explore them – individually or in groups – exercising their ability to critically analyse problems (through the existing contexts, subjects, and institutions), as well as exploring the various tools that can contribute to changes toward sustainability. In this way it will be possible to address concrete problems, taking into account the limits and the potential for action of individuals, businesses, and governments.
In this context, the notion of research – and analytical and critical capacity – becomes central, as an essential tool for the construction of just and sustainable societies.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites required to take part in third-year labs:

Be enrolled from the 3rd year onward.
Have passed the Mathematics and Statistics exams.
Have earned at least 90 CFU (at the time of enrolment in the lab).
Have included the labs in the study plan.

Teaching methods

Lab activities will be carried out through Lecture-based Teaching (DE – Didattica Erogativa) and Interactive Teaching (DI – Didattica Interattiva).

Lecture-based Teaching (DE) will consist of classroom-based frontal teaching, focused on the presentation and introduction of general content on the topic of each section of the lab (there will be 6 sections in total), of concepts important for interpreting problems related to sustainability, and of analytical tools that will allow students to critically analyse case studies and assess possible actions and solutions to contemporary environmental problems.
Interactive Teaching (DI) will be the hands-on moment in the lab in which students will analyse case studies and projects related to sustainability. The interactive activities will mainly consist of individual and group work to discuss and analyse case studies and to develop – based on the conditions of each case – possible virtuous actions to improve existing socio-environmental conditions.
The lab consists of 24 hours, organised into 6 activities of 4 hours each, all carried out in person. No activities are delivered remotely. The activities will be distributed between 30-40% DE and 60-70% DI – depending on the topics covered and the case studies to be analysed.

Assessment methods

Knowledge and understanding:

Assessed through active participation in the Lecture-based Teaching sessions, in which the student engages with the concepts and theoretical frameworks introduced for each of the lab's six sections, demonstrating a critical understanding of sustainability challenges in their political, social, economic, and environmental dimensions.
Applying knowledge and understanding:

Assessed through engagement in the Interactive Teaching sessions, in which the student applies the analytical tools discussed to concrete case studies, individually or in groups, proposing readings and solutions in multidisciplinary contexts.
Making judgements:

Assessed through the quality of contributions to case study discussions, in which the student is required to formulate autonomous assessments, interpreting data and contexts and considering the ethical, social, and environmental implications of the proposed solutions.
Communication skills:

Assessed through oral presentation, individual or group-based, of analyses and intervention proposals during lab activities.
Learning skills:

Assessed through the student's progressive and continuous engagement across the lab's six sections, observed against the minimum attendance threshold required (5 out of 6 activities).

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The texts will be distributed by the lab coordinator before each section and will consist of a reference text for each selected topic (such as Energy, Agriculture, Mobility, etc.) and case studies chosen by the lab coordinator. The selection will be based on the representativeness of the cases, their relevance in terms of describing the problems, and the abundance of data. All texts and case studies will also be chosen based on accessibility for all students.

Sustainable Development Goals