



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Organizzazione del Territorio

2627-3-E1601N079

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

Organizational studies have made it clear now that organizations do not act in a vacuum, but are inserted in a specific context, within which they develop complex relationships. The course aims to explore the different elements that characterize the context, using the theoretical framework provided by the urban studies. In other words, if the science of organizations looks at the relationship between context and organization **on the side of organizations**, this course focuses **on the context**, providing the conceptual framework necessary to explore, for example, the social and economic structure of the region where an organization is placed; cultural resources, traditions, history of the place available to organizations; the local policies that govern its actions and so on. The course provides students with the analytical tools required to examine territories, enabling them to identify, understand, and, where appropriate, inform changes in the environment in which organizations operate. Specifically, students will acquire the theoretical and practical tools to:

Analyse the major transformations in the spatial organisation of social phenomena;

Apply the principal methodologies used in territorial analysis;

Identify and interpret the most relevant territorial indicators.

Applied knowledge and understanding

By the end of the course, students will be able to describe the main sociological theories and debates on urban and territorial issues, critically reflect on the key spatial dynamics of contemporary society, and select the most appropriate methodologies and indicators for territorial analysis.

Autonomy of judgement

Students will also develop the ability to observe society with a focused and curious gaze, and will be able to raise new questions and give themselves independent answers on what is happening around them, with particular attention to the location of economic phenomena and to their relationship with the space.

Communication skills and ability to learn

Students are expected to present case studies and scientific articles that will develop their communication skills and their ability to learn

Contents

The course examines the main issues related to the spatial organisation of social phenomena and introduces the principal methodologies for territorial research, as well as the key indicators used to analyse and interpret territorial dynamics. Particular attention is devoted to the relationships between territory, culture, and digital transformations. A thematic focus will be devoted to the relationship among space, culture and digital transformations.

Detailed program

The course addresses a range of key topics in urban and territorial sociology, including dwelling and housing, the creative city, deviance, local elites, globalisation, immigration, social innovation, mobility and accessibility, poverty, quality of life, segregation, safety and security, loneliness, public space, and tourism. These topics provide students with a comprehensive overview of the main social processes shaping contemporary cities and territories.

A dedicated section of the course will focus on the relationship between territory, culture, and digital transformations. In particular, it will examine the new urban configurations emerging from the interplay between physical and digital space, as well as the role of platforms, data, and networks in cultural production and contemporary urban dynamics.

Prerequisites

No specific requirements; as for the other courses in the third year, statistics is a compulsory exam.

Teaching methods

Teaching will combine face-to-face lectures, online sessions, and in-class practical activities. To encourage critical discussion, regular engagement with the course materials, and collaborative learning, dedicated sessions will be devoted to the collective discussion of key topics addressed during the course.

Students will also complete individual and group exercises designed to deepen their understanding of the concepts and methods of urban and territorial studies. These activities will not only support the acquisition of analytical skills but also foster peer learning and collaboration.

Approximately 80% of the course will consist of lectures supported by slides and audiovisual and textual materials. Around one third of these lectures will be delivered online, either synchronously or asynchronously, depending on the needs of the class and the overall organisation of the course. The remaining 20% of teaching time will be devoted to interactive learning activities, including individual and group work, student presentations of assigned readings, and the discussion of case studies.

Assessment methods

Assessment is based on a written examination consisting of open-ended questions designed to evaluate students' understanding of the course topics, with particular reference to the material covered in the required readings (see the course reading list).

In general, the assessment takes into account the knowledge of the topics of the course and the relative

bibliography, the property of language and the critical-interpretative capacity.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Nuvolati, G., & d'Ovidio, M. (a cura di) (2022). Temi e metodi per la sociologia del territorio. UTET Università.
d'Ovidio, M. & Gandini, A. (a cura di) (2026). L'urbano e il digitale: Lo spazio della cultura. Italia: Il Saggiatore.

Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
