UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Urban Policies

2627-2-F7603Q029-F7603Q02901

Aims

The Urban Policies Laboratory aims to provide students with multidisciplinary knowledge and skills for the study of cities and territories, addressing both theoretical and practical dimensions through lectures, readings, group exercises, and class discussions.
The Laboratory consists of four modules. The first module aims to provide students with the theoretical and conceptual tools needed to understand the notions of city and territory, as well as the main ongoing transformations.
The second module addresses the major contemporary urban challenges, including sustainability, housing, mobility and accessibility, culture, inequalities, urban regeneration, gentrification and touristification, and smart cities.
The third module aims to strengthen students' skills in studying and analysing cities and territories by introducing the main qualitative and quantitative methodologies used in the social sciences and the main data sources available for urban research.
The fourth module provides an overview of the main urban policies and strategies implemented at local and metropolitan government levels, both nationally and internationally, in response to urban transformations and contemporary urban challenges.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Module 1

- Knowledge of the main theoretical paradigms and conceptualizations of the contemporary city.
- Knowledge of the main recent urban transformations.
- Basic knowledge of urban history.
- Understanding of the territorial and spatial dimensions of cities.

Module 2

- Ability to navigate and critically engage with the main ongoing thematic debates concerning cities and urban issues.

Module 3

- Knowledge of the main qualitative and quantitative methodologies used to understand cities and territorial phenomena, particularly from a social science perspective.
- Knowledge of and ability to use the main national, European, and international data sources related to the study of cities.

Module 4

- Knowledge of the main trends and multilevel strategies developed to address urban transformations and the principal challenges facing contemporary cities.

By the end of the Laboratory, students will be able to develop a critical approach to urban and territorial issues, understand and analyse complex academic and policy texts, and critically interpret and use the main data sources employed in urban research.

Contents

1. Histories, geographies, and theories of the city.
2. Key thematic insights: housing, sustainability, mobility and accessibility, culture, inequalities, urban regeneration, gentrification and touristification, and smart cities.
3. Urban data: methodologies for studying the city and relevant data sources.
4. Urban policies and strategies.

Detailed program

1. Histories, Geographies, and Theories of the City**

The first part of the course addresses the main theoretical paradigms related to the study of cities.
It explores the key conceptualizations and notions that help answer the questions of what a city is today and how cities have changed over time. The module provides an introduction to urban history and examines crucial debates concerning contemporary forms of urbanization, including European cities, global cities and planetary urbanization, megalopolises, the right to the city, and the relationship between the rural and the urban.

2. Key Thematic Insights

The second module provides an overview of the main contemporary urban challenges and ongoing debates, including:
housing, sustainability, mobility and accessibility, culture, inequalities, urban regeneration, gentrification and touristification, digitalization, and smart cities.

3. Urban Data: Methodologies and Relevant Data Sources

The third part of the Laboratory examines the main qualitative and quantitative methodologies used in urban research. It also explores the representation and mapping of cities and territories through cartographic tools and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Finally, the module provides students with knowledge of the main data sources relevant to the study of cities and territories, including ISTAT and Eurostat, and introduces their practical application in urban analysis.

4. Urban Policies and Strategies

The fourth module provides an in-depth examination of the main policies, forms of governance, experiments, best practices and innovations related to the governance of contemporary cities and territories. It also introduces the European Union strategic framework and sustainability objectives.
Relevant international case studies of urban policies are presented, including, for example, policies aimed at climate change mitigation. For each module, students are assigned readings and are required to take part in class discussions, debates, and exercises. Fulfilment of these activities is mandatory in order to pass the course.

Prerequisites

None

Teaching form

Lectures, class discussions and debates, and group exercises.

Textbook and teaching resource

Textbooks

- Vicari Haddock, S. (2004). La città contemporanea Bologna Il mulino
- Mela, A. (2008). Sociologia della città nuova ed. Roma Carocci.
- Rossi, U. e Vanolo A (2010). Geografia politica urbana Roma GLF editori Laterza.

Additional readings include:

- Orum A.M. , Ruiz-Tagle J., Vicari Haddock S. (2021). Companion to urban and regional studies, Hoboken, John Wiley
  • Le Galès P. (2005) Le città europee: società urbane, globalizzazione, governo locale, Il Mulino, Bologna,
  • Nuvolati, Giampaolo. , D'Ovidio, Marianna. (2022). Temi e metodi per la sociologia del territorio Milano UTET università.
  • Martinotti, Guido. (2000). Metropoli : la nuova morfologia sociale della città. Bologna Il mulino.
  • Scott, A. J. (2011). Città e regioni nel nuovo capitalismo: l'economia sociale delle metropoli. Bologna Il mulino.
  • Vicari Haddock S. (a cura di), Questioni urbane. Il Mulino, Bologna, 2013

Semester

First semester

Assessment method

Information on the assessment methods and grading criteria will be available soon

Office hours

By prior arrangement via email: francesca.lacqua@unimib.it

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | GENDER EQUALITY | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES