UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Population Dynamics

2627-2-F5603M017

Learning objectives

The main objective of the course is to provide an overview of the causes and consequences of population change in historical and comparative perspective, and to gain an understanding of their interrelation with broader economic and social dynamics.

Learning Outcomes (Dublin Descriptors):

1. Knowledge and Understanding
   -Acquire a solid understanding of key demographic concepts and theories related to fertility, mortality, migration, and population structures.

- Understand the long-term evolution and cross-country variation in population dynamics and their drivers.

2. Applying Knowledge and Understanding

- Apply economic tools and analytical frameworks to interpret population trends and their economic and social implications.
- Analyze population data and indicators using real-world examples.

3. Making Judgements

- Evaluate the role of population change in shaping societal transformations, policy challenges, and long-term development trajectories.
- Formulate critical reflections on the economic implications of demographic dynamics in different contexts.

4. Communication Skills

- Present demographic data, arguments, and findings clearly and effectively in both oral and written forms, using appropriate disciplinary language.

5. Learning Skills

- Develop the ability to autonomously explore the links between economic and demographic issues through academic literature and data sources.
- Strengthen research skills for further study in economics, social sciences, or public policy.

Contents

• Population structure, demographic processes and socio-economic dynamics
• Family and fertility
• Labor force, structural transformation and gender inequality
• Migration and human capital
• Population and economic growth

Detailed program

1. Demographic History and Structure of the World Population
2. Survival and Health
3. Fertility: Determinants and Patterns
4. Labor, Structural Transformation, and Gender
5. Migration: Theories and Trends
6. Demographic Transition(s), Human Capital, and Economic Growth

Prerequisites

Knowledge of the main economic principles and econometric methods is a prerequisit.

Teaching methods

Open classes + interactive classes (lab sessions)

Assessment methods

1. Written exam: weight 5 credits (60%) (60-minute exam either at the end of the course or on other exam dates)
2. Term paper: weight 3 credits (40%).
   The topic of the term paper should be selected from among those covered in the course. The empirical project will be evaluated based on both its quality and originality, and presented in class by the author. The instructor will provide guidance and support throughout the development of the project.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Scientific papers provided by the instructor

Semester

Second semester

Teaching language

English

Sustainable Development Goals

GENDER EQUALITY | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS