UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Tendenze Demografiche

2627-1-F8205B004

Learning objectives

The course aims to provide the basic tools to study the quantitative and structural transformations of a population and to investigate the factors that determine its evolution. Particular attention is devoted to the presentation of the demographic mechanisms underlying population change and the consequences of these changes. Students will also acquire professionalism in dealing with documentation, analysis and dissemination of issues concerning the population and its dynamics. This teaching will provide knowledge and skills to assess not only demographic dynamics but also the corresponding effects on socio-economic and political-cultural balances. At the end of the course, students will be able to use tools for a critical analysis of demographic reality and its developments.

Knowledge and understanding.
This teaching will provide knowledge and understanding with regard to the study of quantitative and structural transformations of the population.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding.
At the end of the teaching the students will be able to:

document and analyse demographic phenomena
critically analyse the changes taking place
assess the socio-economic impact of the transformations taking place

Autonomy of judgement:

Critical skills and judgement will be acquired through group work and by writing the research report comparing two countries.

Communication skills:

Communication skills will be developed through the group work both preparation and presentation and writing the research report.

Learning skills:

In order to develop the ability to continue the study independently, guidance is provided on the chapters of the textbook and any additional study materials, with particular attention to non-attendent students.

Contents

1. Age and sex Structure
2. Mortality and life expectancy
3. Fertility
4. Population growth
5. Migrations
6. Demographic projections
7. Transition to adulthood and households

Detailed program

1. Age and sex structure

    - indicators to describe the age and sex structure
    - evolution of the age and sex structure over time and causes
    - consequences of the change in age and sex structure (ageing, active ageing and silver economy)
    - lab activity on real data

2. Mortality and life expectancy

    - indicators describing mortality and survival evolution (mortality rates, life table)
    - mortality evolution and causes
    - consequences of mortality change (lifestyles and mortality, future scenarios)
    - lab activity on real data

3. Birth rate and fertility

    - fertility indicators (fertility rates, TFT, age at childbirth)
    - evolution of fertility (relationship between fertility and marriage, controlled fertility, lowest low fertility, reconciliation of work and family)
    - consequences of fertility evolution (demographic trap, demographic winter)
    - fertility support policies
    - child and maternal health (infertility, medical assisted procreation, abortion and antenatal care)
    - lab activity

4. Population growth

    - indicators for calculating population growth (rates and doubling times)
    - history of world population evolution, demographic transition
    - consequences of population evolution (geodemography, climate change)

- lab acativity

5. Migrations

    - definitions
    - evolution of the phenomenon in Italy, presence of the foreign population
    - health and access to health services of the foreign population
    - citizenship acquisition
    - landings of refugees and asylum seekers

6. Demographic projections

- projections models
- how to read projections: projection window, variants and uncertainty
- Italian and world population projections
- consequences of population evolution: seconday projections (families, university students...)

7. Transition to adulhood and households

- Transition to adulhood (trend in the Italian context)
- Relationship between generations and transition to adulhood
- Household trend in the Italian context

Prerequisites

none

Teaching methods

All hours of this course are conducted in face-to-face delivery mode with the following breakdown by type of activity

- 6 computer labs of 2 hours
- 15 2-hour lectures
  The course is structured in lectures and computer lab activities. The lectures aim to provide the tools for analysis and to expose the causes and consequences of demographic changes. The laboratory activities aim to familiarise participants with secondary data sources and the writing of a research report.
  In the event that computer labs are not available, the lab hours may be delivered remotely.

Assessment methods

Oral examination

For attending students:

The examination consists of two parts:

1. interview on in-depth topics: discussion of a topic of demographic relevance agreed with the lecturer. the aim of the test is to check comprehension of the topics covered in the lecture, the ability to explore a topic in depth by reading scientific articles. The following will be assessed: adherence to time and division of time in the group (max. 5 points); graphics of the presentation (max. 5 points); exposition (max. 10 points); contextualisation of the problem, definition of the audience and suitability of the presentation for the chosen audience (max. 10 points).

2. interview on the results of the laoratory activity: discussion of the research report produced during the laboratory activities. the test aims to test the ability to analyse and comment on the demographic situation of a country on the basis of secondary data. The following will be assessed: the completeness of the work (max 10 points), the fluency and clarity of the paper (max 5 points), the comments (max 5), the bibliographical research and personal reworking (max 5 points) and the care of editing aspects (max 5 points).

Final grade the average of the two grades.

For non-attending students:

The examination consists interview on on topics covered in the textbooks: testing of knowledge of the topics covered in the course. The assessment test aims to check understanding of the main demographic mechanisms and current demographic trends.

Grading grid:

- 18-23: sufficient preparation and ability to analyse, but relating to a limited number of topics covered during the course.
- 24-27: technically adequate preparation, but with some limitations in relation to the topics covered; good analytical skills, although not particularly articulate.
- 28-30: excellent knowledge of a large number of topics covered during the course; good analytical and critical skills.
- 30L: excellent, very thorough and comprehensive knowledge of the topics covered in the course; ability to analyse critically and make connections.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Attending students:

De Rose e Rosina (2022). Introduzione alle demografia. Analisi ed interpretazione delle dinamiche di popolazione. Egea
Chapters: 3, 4 (only sessions 4.1, 4.2 e 4.4), 5, 6, 8 (only sessions 8.1, 8.2 e 8.4), 11, 13 (only sessions 13.1, 13.2, 13.3 3 13.5)

Non attending students:

De Rose Rosina (2022). Introduzione alle demografia. Analisi ed interpretazione delle dinamiche di popolazione. Egea
Available reading on e-learning

One readings among these:

- Billari (2023). Domani è oggi. Costruire il futuro con le lenti della demografia. Egea
- Livi Bacci (2024). Geodemografia. Il peso dei popoli e i rapporti tra stati. Il Mulino

One readings among these:

- Billari e Tomassini (a cura di) (2021), Rapporto sulla popolazione L'Italia e le sfide della demografia. Il Mulino
- Golini (2019). Italiani poca gente. Il paese ai tempi del malessere demografico. LUISS

Semester

1° semester II° ciclo - approximatively mid November - end January

Teaching language

Italian

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES