



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Coastal and Maritime Tourism

2627-2-F7504Q018

Aims

This course aims at critically examining tourism activities and industry in coastal regions and marine spaces, focusing on social, economic and cultural impacts of tourism development in these specific contexts. Various types of tourism -such as ecotourism - in coastal and marine locations will be presented and discussed based on a number of selected case studies (e.g: the Mediterranean Sea, the Caribbean islands; The Red Sea; The Maldives). Moreover, the course will provide critical insights to explore the relationship between tourism economies and performances, socio-spatial practices and environmental issues, and finally it will explore coastal and marine tourism policies, strategies and guidelines as promoted by EU and other institutional agencies.

In details students the course will act on the following skills:

- **Knowledge and understanding skills:** Participants will gain knowledge on human-environmental, political and social issues connected to tourism, with a specific focus on marine and coastal regions.
- **Ability to apply knowledge and understanding:** Participants will be able to apply the acquired knowledge to case studies in the fields of human geography and tourism studies. Participants will be able to apply trans-scalar approaches to the understanding of tourism as a geographical, social and political agent. Moreover, participants will be able to use concepts and information to plan research proposal
- **Independent judgment skills:** Participants will be able to independently identify relevant issues and the most effective methodologies for studying and discussing social, geographical and environmental interaction in tourism
- **Communication skills:** Participants will be able to express themselves clearly and in a scientifically accurate manner on topics related to human geography and tourism studies. Moreover, participants will develop initial skills in project designing and science communication
- **Learning skills:** Participants will be able to independently deepen their understanding of topics related to human geography and tourism studies by developing cross-disciplinary links and connections. Participants will be able to frame contents and information into specific geographical context

Contents

- Geographies of coastal and maritime tourism (definitions, facts, cases...)
- Marine tourist destinations and main trends
- Cultural geographies of coastal and maritime tourist destinations
- European and Mediterranean strategies for coastal and maritime tourism, analysis of EU and UNWTO reports
- Tourism and blue growth
- Sustainable tourism and the blue economy
- Environmental impacts and policies of coastal and maritime tourism
- Political ecologies of coastal and maritime tourism
- Pesca-tourism
- Tourism and geography of small islands

Detailed program

The course will be organized in 2 modules: 1) 35 hours of lessons (5cfu) + 2) 12 hours of practical classes:

1. The first module will initially provide general key concepts, facts and figures on tourism debates and issues. Attention will be focused on cultural, social and political meaning tourism activities produce in coastal and marine areas. By examining a range of case studies drawn from across the world, this module aims to provide conceptual tools, frameworks and categories to understand how coastal and marine tourist destinations are strongly affected by several factors, such as cultural struggles, social transformations and environmental changes. Furthermore, the class will explore discourses presented in selected reports by EU and UNWTO in order to discuss strategies for coastal and maritime tourism from an institutional perspective. Moreover, attention will be paid to the relation between sustainable tourism and blue economy through scientific articles and case studies that will be discussed among the participants. (Scientific papers and selected case studies will be discussed among the participants)
2. Practical classes will develop a project work on a case study selected among the ones presented in the first part of the course.

Prerequisites

NONE

Teaching form

Teaching will be organized as follow:

- 13 two-hour lectures, in person, Delivered Didactics (first module)
- 1 one-hour lecture, in person, Delivered Didactics (first module)
- 4 two-hour lecture, in person, interactive teaching (first module)
- 4 three-hour practical classes, in person (second module)

Textbook and teaching resource

A selection of chapters and parts from the following books and e-books:

- Willson 2025, *The Routledge handbook of tourism geographies*, London ; New York : Routledge Taylor & Francis, 2025.
- Dragin-Jensen, 2024, *Nordic coastal tourism : sustainability, trends, practices, and opportunities*, Cham : Springer
- UNWTO, 2020, *Sustainable development of wildlife tourism in Asia and the Pacific : good practices and their implications.*, UNWTO, Madrid

Additional essays, documents, and reports may be provided during the course.

Semester

First Semester

Assessment method

Oral:

INTERVIEW ON THE TOPICS COVERED IN CLASS AND ON THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

The objective is to assess the acquisition of the knowledge provided during the course and the use of basic concepts to move within the field of Tourism Studies with particular reference to the contexts, regions and cases proposed during the course.

INTERVIEW ON THE ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT DURING THE PROJECT WORK (practical classes)

The objective is to verify the skills and competences in presenting (in a critical and conscious way) the activity carried out and reflecting on the project work proposed

Office hours

Appointments are required

Sustainable Development Goals

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | CLIMATE ACTION | LIFE BELOW WATER | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
