



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Lavoro, Globalizzazione e Trasformazioni Sociali

2627-2-E1602N013

Learning objectives

1) *Knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students will have acquired knowledge of:

- the main concepts of the sociology of work and labour markets;
- the statistical and information sources used for labour market analysis;
- the main characteristics of the Italian labour market and employment patterns from a comparative perspective;
- the major processes shaping labour transformation in contemporary economies;
- the relationships between changes in labour market, globalization and broader social transformations.

2) *Applying knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- use labour market data and statistical indicators;
- interpret labour market phenomena and their relationship with broader processes of social change;
- compare different national labour market contexts, identifying similarities and differences.

3) *Making judgements*

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- critically evaluate labour market data, research findings and public narratives;
- develop independent judgments on the main processes of labour transformation;
- critically discuss national and international research on work and employment.

4) *Communication skills*

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- appropriately use the specialized vocabulary of the sociology of work;
- present and discuss labour market data and research findings;
- critically discuss issues related to work and contemporary social transformations.

5) *Learning skills*

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- independently identify and use relevant academic sources and research materials;
- update their knowledge of labour market developments and transformations;
- apply the conceptual and methodological tools acquired during the course to further studies in the sociology of work.

Contents

The course examines the labour market as a key dimension of contemporary social change. After introducing the main concepts, analytical tools and data sources for labour market analysis, it explores the major transformations affecting work and employment in contemporary societies, with particular attention to Italy from a European and international comparative perspective.

Detailed program

The first part of the course introduces the main concepts, analytical tools and data sources used in the sociological analysis of labour markets.

The second part examines the major transformations of labour markets from a comparative European perspective, with particular attention to the specific features of the Italian case. The following topics will be discussed:

- the transition towards service economies and its implications for labour demand, employment structures, occupations and skills;
- the feminization of labour markets and gender differences in labour force participation and employment;
- labour market flexibility and different forms of precarious employment;
- the labour market integration of immigrants;
- undeclared and informal work;
- unemployment in comparative perspective.

As for the second part, topics will be explored also through the discussion of original research articles, mainly drawn from the international literature in the sociology of work.

Prerequisites

No specific prerequisite.

Teaching methods

The course is taught in Italian.
All teaching activities take place in class.
Total teaching hours: 56

Tentative schedule of classes:

Traditional teaching (Didattica erogativa - DE) – 40 hours (approximately 70%)

- 20 two-hour lectures delivered on campus.
- Presentation of the main theoretical concepts.
- Discussion of the main statistical and documentary sources.
- Analysis of labour market and employment transformations.

Interactive teaching (Didattica interattiva - DI) – 16 hours (approximately 30%)

- Eight two-hour interactive sessions on campus.
- Guided discussion of case studies.
- Analysis and interpretation of labour market data.
- Discussion of scientific articles and research findings.
- Small-group activities aimed at critical discussion and in-depth analysis.

Assessment methods

Assessment consists of an **individual written examination** including both multiple-choice and open-ended questions.

Part A – Multiple-choice questions

This section assesses:

- knowledge of the fundamental concepts;
- understanding of the theoretical framework;
- knowledge of labour market data sources and analytical tools.

Part B – Open-ended questions

Students will answer two or three open-ended questions designed to assess:

- the ability to apply concepts and analytical tools;
- critical understanding of labour market transformations;
- appropriate use of disciplinary terminology;
- analytical and argumentative skills, including the ability to establish connections across different topics covered in the course.

Learning outcomes assessed

The examination evaluates students' achievement of:

- knowledge and understanding (Dublin Descriptor 1);
- ability to apply knowledge and understanding (Dublin Descriptor 2);
- independent judgement (Dublin Descriptor 3);
- communication skills (Dublin Descriptor 4).

Assessment criteria

Final marks are based on:

- accuracy and completeness of answers;
- analytical and interpretative abilities;
- appropriate use of sociological concepts;
- ability to connect different topics covered during the course;
- clarity of exposition and quality of argumentation.

No mid-term examinations are scheduled.

Self-assessment tests are periodically offered during the course.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The course bibliography consists of introductory textbooks and mainly international scientific articles. **Reading materials will be specified at the beginning of the course and made available through the University's e-learning platform.**

Indicative textbooks include:

- Reyneri, E. (2017). *Introduzione alla sociologia del mercato del lavoro*. Bologna: Il Mulino (selected chapters; also available as an e-book).
- Fellini, I. (2017). *Il terziario di consumo. Occupazione e professioni*. Rome: Carocci (with focus on Chapters 1 and 4).
- Brancati, R., & Carbone, C. (2024). *Verso la piena sottoccupazione*. Rome: Carocci (Chapters 1 and 2).

These readings will be **supplemented by additional bibliographical references provided at the beginning of the course**. The scientific articles discussed during the course constitute an integral part of the syllabus and will be available through the University's electronic library resources and the e-learning platform.

Sustainable Development Goals

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
