UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Welfare and Immigration

2627-2-E3902N019

Learning objectives

The course aims to provide theoretical and conceptual tools useful for understanding the main aspects of the relationship between welfare and immigration, while encouraging students' ability to independently keep themselves updated on these topics.
After an introduction to the most relevant theories and approaches on migration and on the evolution of the concept of welfare, the course seeks to impart to students a deep knowledge and understanding of the dynamics characterizing this relationship, along with the ability to apply such knowledge and understanding.
Several topics of particular relevance and current interest will be explored, including: 1) immigration policies and policies for immigrants; 2) the main aspects and outcomes characterizing the integration process of people with a migratory background into the host society; 3) the interaction between migration flows and the normative, behavioral, and attitudinal responses of members of the mainstream population.
By the end of the course, students will have developed independent judgment in evaluating the main issues characterizing migration phenomena and will be able to effectively communicate the key empirical and theoretical evidence learned during the course.

Contents

Definitions of different migrant profiles; analysis of the main theories explaining the motivations behind migration processes and their outcomes.

Models of immigration policies and policies for immigrants.

Analysis of the evolution of the concept of welfare.

Dynamics characterizing the integration processes of migrants in destination contexts; focus on the main inequalities based on ethnicity and migration status that shape contemporary societies.

The relationship between migration phenomena and the responses—both in terms of public opinion and behavioral patterns—of members of the mainstream population in destination contexts.

Detailed program

The course will be structured in three parts.
The first part will introduce students to the main classical and contemporary theories of migration, offering insights into the models, pathways, and factors influencing migratory movements, as well as the global impact of migration phenomena. This will be problematized in light of the different meanings of the concept of welfare and its evolution over time.

The second part will focus on the political and regulatory management of migratory flows. Attention will be given to the range of immigration policies and policies for immigrants that have evolved over time, shaping the social milieu of destination societies.

Finally, the course will address specific, timely topics of particular significance, analyzed with the aim of highlighting the extent to which inequalities based on ethnicity and migration status characterize contemporary societies. Particular emphasis will be placed on the life trajectories of individuals with migratory backgrounds in host countries.

Prerequisites

Command of English

Teaching methods

The course will be delivered using a blended teaching approach: 50% of the content will be presented through seminar-style lectures, supported by slides and other multimedia materials. The remaining 50% will be conducted through interactive teaching methods, including exercises, group work, case study presentations, and collaborative discussions in class.

Students are encouraged to regularly consult the detailed course guide available on the e-learning platform, where the precise schedule of topics covered in each session is provided.

Assessment methods

Assessment is composed of three components:

Active participation in classroom activities;

Completion of individual tasks, such as oral presentations or contributions to group discussions;

A final written exam, consisting of two parts: a section with closed-ended questions to assess knowledge of the

exam syllabus, and a section with open-ended questions, designed to evaluate the student's ability to independently reflect on critical issues covered in the course.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The main reference text for the course is: De Haas, H., Castles, S., & Miller, M. J. (2019). The age of migration: International population movements in the modern world. Bloomsbury Publishing

The specific chapters and sections of the book to be covered during the course—and thus included in the exam—will be indicated progressively during the lectures.

Additional bibliographic materials will be recommended by the instructor and made available on the e-learning platform.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES