



**UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA**

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Turismo e Crisi Ecologica Globale

2627-2-F4902N019

Learning objectives

Tourism is at once one of the sectors most exposed to the effects of climate change and one of the contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions. In a context marked by planetary boundaries and the urgency of the ecological transition, growing attention is being paid to tourism models capable of reducing their impact and, where possible, generating positive effects for territories and communities.

The Course is positioned within this context with the aim of training students on the main issues concerning the relationship between tourism and the global ecological crisis, with attention to the dynamics of climate change, the reciprocal impacts between tourism and climate, and mitigation, adaptation and emerging sustainable and regenerative tourism strategies.

Knowledge and understanding. Acquire a solid understanding of the dynamics of climate change and planetary boundaries, and of their relationship with tourism systems, with particular reference to mitigation and adaptation strategies and to models of sustainable and regenerative tourism.

Applied knowledge and understanding. Apply the theoretical knowledge acquired to analyse real destinations and tourism practices, assessing their climate vulnerability and environmental impact, and to design low-impact tourism experiences or action plans.

Making judgements. Develop the ability to critically assess policies, strategies and practices in the tourism sector related to the climate crisis, including those concerning the risk of greenwashing.

Communication skills. Strengthen written and oral communication skills, through the development of analyses and proposals related to tourism and climate change, with attention to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Learning skills. Promote an autonomous and flexible learning method, useful for monitoring the evolving debate on tourism and the global ecological crisis through the critical use of institutional reports and recent scientific literature.

Contents

The course is structured in sessions dedicated to the planetary and climate context, the reciprocal impacts between tourism and climate change, mitigation and adaptation strategies, and emerging models of sustainable and regenerative tourism.

In summary, the course will cover four thematic areas:

- 1- the planetary context and the dynamics of climate change, with attention to the role of tourism emissions;
- 2- the impact of tourism on climate and mitigation and adaptation strategies in the sector;
- 3- the impacts of climate change on destinations, communities and tourism territories;
- 4- emerging models of sustainable and regenerative tourism and sector practices, including the recognition of greenwashing.

Detailed program

The course will explore the dynamics of climate change and their relationship with tourism systems, starting from the recognition of planetary boundaries and environmental limits through to a critical reading of sector practices. An initial part will be dedicated to understanding the global climate context — the causes, dynamics and effects of global warming — and the specific contribution of tourism emissions, spanning transport, infrastructure and consumption.

The course will then analyse the impact of tourism on climate, with attention to the Paris Agreement framework and its implications for the sector, and to the two main response agendas: mitigation, understood as emissions reduction, and adaptation, understood as building climate resilience for tourism destinations.

A central section will be devoted to the climate impacts on tourism, exploring the direct and indirect effects of climate change on destinations, the social effects on communities and workers in the sector, and the differentiated vulnerability of places and people to extreme climate events, also in light of the role of climate services in decision-making processes.

The course will then address the interactions between mitigation and adaptation agendas, including phenomena such as extreme tourism and last-chance tourism, before opening onto a reflection on future scenarios for tourism in a changing world.

The concluding sections will be dedicated to tourism after progress, analysing emerging models — regenerative tourism, slow tourism, local and circular tourism — and to a critical assessment of sector practices, through case studies, good practices and mistakes to avoid, with particular attention to recognising greenwashing.

Prerequisites

No specific prerequisite is required to take the course and sit the exam, beyond the basic knowledge of tourism geography acquired during the Bachelor's degree. A knowledge of English is required, as the course is delivered entirely in English.

Teaching methods

The Course consists of 42 hours, of which 70% is Lecture-based Teaching (DE) (classroom-based frontal teaching using slides, case studies and audio/video materials), 20% is Interactive Teaching (DI) (exercises, debates, group work on real cases), and 10% is delivered remotely.

In detail:

Lecture-based Teaching (DE): 29 hours;

Interactive Teaching (DI): 9 hours;

Remote teaching: 4 hours.

Assessment methods

The course is organised into four thematic modules. At the end of each module, students take a written exam with open-ended questions on the content of the module just completed; the final course grade is the average of the four exams, each of which must be passed with a sufficient grade.

Knowledge and understanding: Assessed through the four written exams, in which the student is required to demonstrate, module by module, understanding of the conceptual frameworks addressed in the course — planetary boundaries, the dynamics of climate change, tourism emissions, mitigation and adaptation strategies, and models of sustainable and regenerative tourism.

Applying knowledge and understanding: Assessed through the written exam of each module, in which the student applies the analytical tools discussed in class to the analysis of destinations and real cases relevant to that module.

Making judgements: Assessed through the quality of the critical argumentation required in the open-ended questions of each exam, in which the student independently assesses the risks, limits and potential of the strategies and practices analysed, including in relation to the risk of greenwashing.

Communication skills: Assessed through the clarity of exposition and the appropriate use of disciplinary vocabulary in the written answers of each of the four exams.

Learning skills: Assessed through the student's ability, in each exam, to independently connect the topics covered in class to sources and cases not directly discussed.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Tanrisever, C., Pamukçu, H., Baydeniz, E. (a cura di) (2025), *Tourism and Climate Change: Research on Global Challenges and Opportunities*, Springer Nature.

Remoaldo, P., Lopes, H., Ribeiro, V., Alves, J. (a cura di) (2024), *Tourism and Climate Change in the 21st Century: Challenges and Solutions*, Springer Nature.

Further materials (articles, institutional reports, case studies) will be indicated by the lecturer and distributed via the University e-Learning platform

Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | CLIMATE ACTION | LIFE BELOW WATER | LIFE ON LAND
