UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Globalisation, Firms and Regional Development

2627-2-F8804N022

Learning objectives

- Knowledge and understanding
  Know what local production systems, global value chains and organisational networks are; understand their main characteristics and the main theoretical approaches used to analyse the relationships between globalisation, firms and territories.

- Ability to apply knowledge and understanding
  Apply theoretical knowledge to different empirical cases; identify the elements needed to analyse and understand the transformations in the relationship between firms and territories.

- Independent judgement
  The course aims to provide students with different analytical models and theoretical perspectives, encouraging a critical and informed interpretation of territorial development processes and contemporary economic transformations.

- Communication skills
  Develop the ability to present and discuss research findings both orally and in writing. Work in groups to design and present an original research project to a selected audience.

- Learning skills
  Develop curiosity and openness towards a plurality of theoretical approaches and empirical cases, strengthening the ability to connect theoretical perspectives with empirical research.

Contents

Globalisation, firms and territories: transformations of local production systems and inter-organisational networks in

the contemporary economy.
Global value chains, local production systems and territorial development.
The effects of digitalisation and remote work on firms and territorial systems.

Detailed program

The course is organised into two complementary components, which will run partly in parallel and will be continuously integrated throughout the semester.

The theoretical component introduces the main concepts and analytical tools for the study of the relationships between globalisation, firms and territories. The topics covered include:

- local production systems, territorial development and governance;
- organisational networks, global value chains, and the transformation of production systems;
- the effects of globalisation and digitalisation on firms, work and territories.
  The theoretical component will be complemented by the reading and discussion of scientific articles and book chapters, including texts proposed by the students, with the aim of exploring specific topics in greater depth, comparing different theoretical perspectives, and developing critical reading skills.

In parallel, students will be involved in the design and implementation of an empirical research project. Depending on the number of participants, the project will be carried out individually or in one or more groups and may focus on different case studies and research topics, also defined on the basis of the students' interests. During the course, students will design research instruments, collect and analyse qualitative and/or quantitative data, and discuss the research findings collectively.

At the end of the course, the results of the research activities will be presented in a semi-public event.

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of sociology

Teaching methods

The course consists of 56 hours, approximately 30% of which are delivered through lectures (supported by slides, audio and video materials) and 70% through interactive teaching activities (practical exercises, discussion of scientific articles, group work, empirical research activities, and preparation of the final presentation).

The language of instruction is Italian.

Some classes (no more than 30% of the course) may be delivered online, depending on organisational needs and in accordance with the course learning objectives.

Assessment methods

The final assessment consists of writing a short essay based on the materials included in the course syllabus. Students will be provided with an essay prompt, which must be developed by drawing on the assigned readings. For each prompt, the minimum number of references to be used and cited will be specified (normally five or six, depending on the topic). Sources must be cited according to the University's dissertation guidelines, and the essay must include a final bibliography prepared in accordance with the guidelines available on the course e-learning page.
The examination takes place in a computer laboratory and lasts two hours. During the examination, students may consult the course materials in either printed format or digital format on a personal device not connected to the Internet, including for the purpose of providing accurate citations and references.

Assessment criteria

The essay will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

- knowledge and understanding of the course contents;
- structure and organisation of the essay (introduction, development and conclusions);
- ability to critically discuss and integrate the literature;
- clarity and accuracy of written expression;
- accuracy of citations and bibliography.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Additional readings in English will be made available during the course.

Erasmus students are kindly requested to contact the course lecturer by email at the beginning of the semester to discuss the reading materials and assessment requirements.

Sustainable Development Goals

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES