UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Quality of Urban Life

2627-2-F8804N021

Learning objectives

The course's primary objectives are:

- Achieve the necessary skills to define, measure and evaluate the quality of urban life and the most appropriate policies to increase it, both individually, collectively or for specific population groups.
- Develop abilities for collaboration with other professionals in planning activities.
  Specifically, with respect to the topics covered, at the end of the course, students will demonstrate appropriate levels of:
  • Knowledge and understanding: ability to read, analyze, and interpret urban phenomena with a specific focus on urban quality of life.
  • Applied knowledge and understanding: ability to apply theory to different cases and temporalities through quantitative and qualitative comparative methodologies.
  • Independent judgment: ability to develop critical thinking, to comment and express personal opinions on the topics covered.
  • Communication skills: ability to interact with other stakeholders (scholars, researchers, organizations and institutions, the general public) within and outside the discipline of urban sociology.
  • Learning skills: ability to relate the concepts studied to broader societal transformations in order to analyze new emerging phenomena.
  The course objectives and content are fully consistent with the degree program's educational objectives and with the expected skills for the graduate profile, as indicated in the Degree Program's SUA 26/27.

Contents

The course will be articulated in different parts concerning the history of the research on quality of life, the definition of the concept of quality of life and the methodology for studying quality of life, with further details on the quality of life for metropolitan populations: residents and non-residents and on urban policies. A specific and introductive part of the course will concern the role of sociology in planning for studying and improving urban quality of life.

Detailed program

COURSE INTRODUCTION

Part one

- Definition of territorial systems
- Cities and urban populations

Part two

- Sociology and urban planning
- Sociology and social participation

Part three

- Policies for improving quality of life

Part four

- Definition of urban quality of life
- Sources and indicators
- Research methods on quality of life
- Results of Italian and international research

Part five

- Design and development of research on quality of life

Prerequisites

General skills in urban sociology and methodology.

Teaching methods

Course of 56 Hours (in presence):

- Teaching Delivery (DE) - face-to-face lectures with use of slides, audio and video - 70%.
- Interactive Didactics (DI) - exercises, presentation of case studies from which to develop individual projects - 30%.

Assessment methods

Exercises, paper presentations and research projects are scheduled during the course as exams, the evaluation of which feeds into the final grade.
Alternatively, the exam consists of two tests:
Mandatory written test in presence - open questions;
Optional additional oral test (only for those who passed the written test) - interviews on the topics covered during the lessons and in the written test.
The exam - in both written and oral tests - is aimed at evaluating the theoretical and methodological knowledge acquired with respect to the topics covered, their critical analysis and the measurement of social and urban phenomena studied.
The skills acquired by students with respect to the topics of the course will be assessed, both from the expository point of view and the content.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Mandatory texts

- Mela A. et al. (2000) *Sociologia e progettazione del territorio*, Roma: Carocci.
- Nuvolati G. *La qualità della vita delle città* (on-line).
- Nuvolati G. (2007) *Mobilità quotidiana e complessità urbana*, Firenze: FUP.
- Nuvolati G. (a cura di) (2018) *Sviluppo urbano e politiche per la qualità della vita*, Firenze: FUP (4 selected chapters).
- Nuvolati G. e D'Ovidio M (2022) *Temi e metodi per la sociologia del territorio*, Torino: UTET (4 selected chapters).

For international students
A reading list in English will be provided upon request. An English exam will be allowed as well.

Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES