

Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Identity, territory and sustainable development
Course Code	51111
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	GSPS-08/B
Language	Italian
Degree Course	Bachelor in Social Work
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	dr. Alessandra Piccoli, Alessandra.Piccoli@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/home/research/competence-centre-management-cooperatives/team/person//38540
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	First semester
Course Year/s	2 (L-39 Social Work)
CP	4
Teaching Hours	24
Lab Hours	0
Individual Study Hours	76
Planned Office Hours	12
Contents Summary	The course provides the foundational knowledge to understand and acquire the key themes, analytical approaches, and methods of the sociology of territory, with the aim of interpreting contemporary social change in relation to broader processes of territorial transformation. Special attention will be given to the concepts of territorial identity and sustainability, as well as to their associated processes of social construction. Initially, the course will offer a general framework of the discipline, focusing on the sociological conceptualization of territory, and analyzing a series of related concepts such as space and place, with the goal of establishing a shared reference glossary. The course will then

	proceed by presenting fundamental processes of territorial transformation, such as urbanization, the creation of urban-rural divides, the definition of territorial inequalities and “left-behind” places, and environmental crises. It will conclude with a reflection on the construction and design of local development as a shared arena to foster contextual trajectories of sustainability.
Course Topics	1 What is a territory? • Definition of the basic conceptual glossary (space, place, territory, etc.) 2 Reading and Analysis of the Territory from the Sociographic Level to the Relational Level • Territorial specificities, sense of belonging, and identity • Representations • Mobility and changing populations • Governance and local economic systems 3 Territory as a Sustainable Development Project • Processes of urbanization and territorial inequalities, urban-rural dichotomies, and center-periphery fractures • Territory and socio-ecological crisis • The local development paradigm • Sustainability and territorial self-sustainability 4 Territorializing Sustainable Development • From data analysis to methods for project development • Focus on participatory methods
Keywords	Territorial identity; sustainability; social change; local development
Recommended Prerequisites	
Propaedeutic Courses	
Teaching Format	In-person lectures on the main topics of the course. The course will include thematic in-depth sessions through case analysis and Problem-Based Learning activities. In this regard, a part of the course will be dedicated to group laboratory activities aimed at introducing students to the fundamentals of social research with a territorial approach, as well as to the design of local development with a focus on identity and territorial sustainability issues.
Mandatory Attendance	In accordance with the regulation.
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	Knowledge and Understanding (and their application): By the end of the course, students will have the theoretical and analytical skills to understand social phenomena within the territorial dimension,

	conceiving territory not only as a physical area bounded by geographic and administrative borders but as a relational, political-economic, and ecological space in constant change. Students will be able to “read” the territory through a complex lens that interconnects the material and immaterial specificities of the territory to processes of local identity definition, sense of belonging, representations, territorial governance, and new perspectives for sustainable local development. They will also have the foundation to formulate project ideas based on perspectives of endogenous and participatory development with a focus on territorial self-sustainability. Making Judgments: By the end of the course, students will be able to critically analyze the processes discussed in class, integrating the conceptual tools presented during the lessons and connecting key themes of territorial development to understand ongoing processes in light of their eco-social complexity. They will also be able to critically analyze – and deconstruct – the processes of sustainability construction, starting from macro institutional narratives. Communication Skills: By the end of the course, students will be able to express themselves clearly, both orally and in writing, on the topics covered, using specialized technical terminology. Additionally, students will be expected to connect different concepts and themes to build a comprehensive and integrated framework, also in connection with other disciplines and themes within their study program. Learning Skills: The goal is to foster the development of the ability to apply and rework the knowledge acquired during the course in potential real-world contexts, encouraging students to transfer the skills learned into practical and professional situations.
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	
Assessment	Students attending the course will be assessed through a project based on topics agreed with the lecturer, part of which will be developed and presented in class during the course, and a final

	oral examination based on the material covered throughout the programme, which has been analysed and discussed in class. The project work, carried out in small groups, will account for 40% of the final mark; assessment will focus on knowledge and understanding of the texts, analytical skills, and the ability to apply knowledge to potential professional situations with sound judgement, as demonstrated individually during the classroom presentation. The oral examination will account for 60 per cent of the mark, and will assess theoretical knowledge, analytical skills, and the ability to make connections between topics and to synthesise information. Both components will be marked out of thirty; the final mark will be the weighted average of the marks obtained in the two assessments. For those who do not take part in the project work presentation and for non-attending students, there will be an oral examination on the topics covered in the syllabus, in which the following will be assessed overall: theoretical knowledge, the ability to make connections between topics and to synthesise information, analytical skills and the ability to apply knowledge to potential professional situations, as well as independent judgement through the discussion of concrete cases covered in class and provided as supplementary materials.
Evaluation Criteria	Students who attend the course: 1-Project Work Evaluation Criteria: • Knowledge and understanding of the texts (10%) • Analytical competence (10%) • Ability to apply knowledge to potential professional situations (10%) • Judgment competence (10%) 2- Oral Exam Evaluation Criteria: • Theoretical knowledge (20%) • Analytical competence (20%) • Ability to connect topics and synthesize information (20%) Non-attending students:

	1 -Oral Exam Evaluation Criteria: • Theoretical knowledge (20%) • Ability to connect topics and synthesize information (20%) • Analytical competence (20%) • Ability to apply knowledge to potential professional situations (20%) • Independent judgment (20%)
Required Readings	For students who regularly attend: • Carrosio, G.; Landi, A. (2023). <i>Spazio, Ambiente, Territorio. Teorie, metodi e prospettive di ricerca sociologica</i>. Rome: Carocci Editore. Chapters I, II, III, IV. • Materials (essays, articles, shared slides, etc.) provided during class and uploaded online. For non-attending students: • Carrosio, G.; Landi, A. (2023). <i>Spazio, Ambiente, Territorio. Teorie, metodi e prospettive di ricerca sociologica</i>. Rome: Carocci Editore. Chapters I, II, III, IV. • Osti, G. (2010). <i>Sociologia del territorio</i>. Bologna: Il Mulino. Chapters IV; V. • Monaco, S. (2024). <i>Identity, territories, and sustainability: Challenges and opportunities for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals</i>. Emerald Publishing Limited. Only Introduction + 2 chapters of your choice. • Materials (essays, articles, slides, etc.) provided during class and uploaded online by the professor, which can be used to support/integrate exam preparation based on the above-mentioned textbooks.
Supplementary Readings	
Further Information	
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Reduced inequalities, Partnerships for the goals, Responsible consumption and production, Sustainable cities and communities