Geography (with Workshop)

Prof. Paolo Molinari

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with the basic methods, knowledge, and skills required to teach geography in kindergarten and primary school. The first unit will deal with the essential elements for an understanding and interpretation of the spatial and territorial organisation of the world in the Anthropocene era in a perspective of conscious and critical geographical education. The second unit focuses on the educational aspects useful for teachers both to encourage students to actively participate in building their spatial and territorial knowledge and competences, and to prepare training courses focused on sustainability and citizenship.

At the end of the course, students will be able to observe and describe the territory through the transformations occurring in the man-environment relationship, using geographical language and models to analyse and interpret the territorial systems. At the same time, they will be able to structure it all in didactic paths for kindergarten and primary school, developing active citizenship skills, also in terms of interdisciplinarity.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. *Geography: concepts, methods, and tools*

– Key principles and concepts of geography.

– Methods and tools of the discipline.

– Regional geography (study of local space, of Italy, and of the main geographical areas of the world).

– Anthropocene and major planetary problems (globalisation, migration, sustainability, development and underdevelopment, territorial governance, imbalances).

2. *Teaching geography*

– The spatial dimension and the structuring of geographical thinking in children.

– Geography in kindergarten and primary school curriculum.

– Tools and methods for teaching geography.

– The new didactic perspectives for an environmental, territorial, landscape and citizenship education.

The course is supplemented with other didactic activities such as the workshop held by experts and characterised by specific themes and methodologies agreed with the lecturer. Each workshop will be aimed at the production of a project/artefact assessed by the expert on the basis of parameters shared with the lecturer and based on the following criteria: completeness, consistency, originality, didactic usability.

***READING LIST***

For point 1 of the course content

F. Iarrera, G. Pilotti, *Geografia. Territori e problemi. Volume 1, Italia Europa*, “Edizione rossa”, Zanichelli, Bologna, 2022.

A. Frémont, *Vi piace la geografia?*, Carocci, Rome, 2007.

For point 2 of the course content

C. Giorda, *Il mio spazio nel mondo*, Carocci, Rome, 2014.

T. Gilardi, P. Molinari (edited by), *Materiali per la didattica della Geografia,* EduCatt, Milano, 2022.

S. Giarolli, *Il filo del palloncino. Idee e spunti per la didattica della geografia*, EduCatt, Milan, 2018.

P. Molinari-E. Riva (edited by), *Spazi e tempi* della *cittadinanza. Idee e percorsi interdisciplinari per la didattica*, Mimesis, Milan-Udine, 2017.

The lessons materials - made available in the online course on Blackboard - and the activities carried out during the course are an integral part of the exam.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course consists of frontal and interactive lessons that may be accompanied by field trips and compulsory workshops (1 ECTS). The information provided in class will also be available on the Blackboard platform.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral examination aimed at testing the students’ knowledge of the topics covered in the course (40%); their use of an appropriate language and their clarity of exposition (10%); their ability to elaborate connections among different topics, develop critical reflections (20%), and apply the acquired knowledge to the teaching contexts (30%). During the year, at least one optional intermediate written test is foreseen: the course content, the procedure for carrying out the test, its format and scheduling will be announced via the Blackboard platform. The part of the syllabus that is covered in the mid-term test will not be requested for the exam and passing grades will constitute the starting point for the final assessment (40% of the overall grade).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As it is introductory in nature, no prerequisites are required to attend the course.

In order to better contextualise the topics covered in class, a good knowledge of human geography is recommended, along with the use of an adequate atlas (De Agostini, Zanichelli, Touring, etc.). Consultation of the articles published in the main sector journals is also advisable (especially *Ambiente Società Territorio*. *Geografia nelle scuole*, which is the journal of the Italian Association of Geography Teachers).

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at the following link:

http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.