# Geography (with workshop)

## Prof. Thomas Gilardi

COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course aims to provide students with the knowledge, methods and basic skills of teaching geography in kindergarten and primary school. In the first module, we will cover the essential elements for understanding and interpreting the spatial and territorial organisation of the world in the Anthropocene era from a conscious and critical geographical teaching perspective. The second module will examine the didactic aspects that teachers can use both to render the pupil an active player in the building of their spatial and territorial knowledge and skills, and to plan 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 changing relationship between man and the environment, using language and geographical models to analyse and interpret the territorial systems. At the same time, they will be able to define it all in didactic pathways for kindergarten and primary school, developing active citizenship skills, including those of an interdisciplinary nature.

COURSE CONTENT

1. Geography: concepts, methods and tools

– The key principles and concepts of geography.

– The methods and tools of the discipline.

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

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

2. Teaching geography

– The spatial dimension and the structuring of geographical thought in the child.

– Geography in the curriculum of kindergarten and primary school.

– The tools and methods for teaching geography.

– New educational perspectives for education on the environment, the territory, the landscape and citizenship.

The course is supplemented by didactic-workshop activities entrusted to experienced conductors and characterised by specific themes and methodologies agreed with the lecturer. Each workshop edition will be aimed at producing a project/artefact that will be assessed by the presenter on the basis of parameters shared with the lecturer and based on criteria of completeness, consistency, originality and didactic use.

***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***

For point 1 of the programme:

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. [Bought from VP](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/armand-fremont/vi-piace-la-geografia-9788843043903-286882.html)

For point 2 of the programme:

C. Giorda, *Il mio spazio nel mondo,* Carocci, Rome, 2014. [Bought from VP](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/cristiano-giorda/il-mio-spazio-nel-mondo-geografia-per-la-scuola-dellinfanzia-e-primaria-9788843070275-212248.html)

T. Gilardi, P. Molinari (Eds.), *Materiali di didattica della Geografia,* EduCatt, Milan, 2022.

S. Giarolli, *Il filo del palloncino. Idee e spunti per la didattica della geografia,* EDUCatt, Milan, 2018. [Bought from VP](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/silvana-giarolli/il-filo-del-palloncino-idee-e-spunti-per-la-didattica-della-geografia-9788893353892-555182.html)

P. Molinari-E. Riva (Eds.), *Spazi e tempi della cittadinanza. Idee e percorsi interdisciplinari per la didattica,* Mimesis, Milan-Udine, 2017. [Bought from VP](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/autori-vari/spazi-e-tempi-della-cittadinanza-idee-e-percorsi-interdisciplinari-per-la-didattica-9788857544526-547244.html)

The lecture 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 lectures and dialogues, possibly accompanied by educational outings, and compulsory workshops (1 ECTS). The information communicated in class will also be available on the Blackboard platform.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

An oral exam during which students will be assessed on their knowledge of the topics addressed (40%), their lexical mastery and presentation clarity (10%), their ability to elaborate connections and critical reflections (20%) and to apply the knowledge learned in the educational field (30%). During the year, at least one optional interim written test is foreseen: the programme, the procedure for taking the test, its format and schedule will be announced via the Blackboard platform. The part of the programme that is covered in the test will not be covered in the exam, and the mark obtained, if a pass, will constitute the starting point for the final assessment (contributing 40% to the overall mark).

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

Being introductory in nature, there are no prerequisites for attending the course.

In order to better contextualise the topics dealt with in class, a good knowledge of human geography is recommended as is the use of an adequate atlas (De Agostini, Zanichelli, Touring, etc.). Students are advised to consult the contributions published in the main sector magazines, in particular *Ambiente Società Territorio. Geografia nelle scuole* (magazine of the Italian Association of Geography Teachers).

Should the current Covid-19 health emergency not allow face-to-face teaching, remote teaching will be guaranteed using methods that will be communicated in good time to students.

Information on office hours available on the teacher's personal page at http://docenti.unicatt.it/.

1. The texts indicated in the reading list may be purchased at the University bookstores; they may also be bought from other outlets. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)