# Geography (with workshop)

## Prof. Thomas Gilardi

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

The course aims to acquire the knowledge, methods, and basic skills of geography aimed at its teaching in nursery and primary schools. The first module will cover the essential elements for understanding and interpreting the spatial and territorial organisation of the world in the Anthropocene era with a view to conscious and critical geographical education. The second module will explore the educational aspects useful to teachers both to enable students to become an active part in building their own spatial and territorial knowledge and skills, and to design 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 of the man-environment relationship, using language and geographical models for the analysis and interpretation of territorial systems. At the same time, they will be able to translate all this into educational paths for nursery and primary schools by developing active citizenship skills, also from an interdisciplinary perspective.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Geography: concepts, methods, and tools

– Principles and key 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 issues (globalisation, migration, sustainability, development and underdevelopment, territorial governance, imbalances).

2. Geography teaching

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

– Geography in the curriculum of nursery and primary schools.

– Tools and methods for teaching geography.

– New teaching perspectives for education about the environment, territory, landscape, and citizenship.

The course is supplemented by didactic-workshop activities held by expert leaders and characterised by specific themes and methodologies agreed with the teacher. Each workshop session will be aimed at producing a project/artefact that will be assessed by the conductor on the basis of parameters shared with the teacher and of criteria such as: completeness, consistency, originality, didactic usability.

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

For point 1 of the programme:

C. Simonetta-C. Giorda*, Il nuovo Professione Geografo. Obiettivo 2030. Strumenti e* saperi *di base della geografia generale ed economica,* Loescher, Turin, 2021.

A. Frémont, *Vi piace la geografia?* Carocci*,* Rome, 2007. [Buy 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. [Buy from VP](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/armand-fremont/vi-piace-la-geografia-9788843043903-286882.html)

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

S. Giarolli, *Il filo del palloncino. Idee e spunti per la didattica della geografia,* EDUCatt, Milano, 2018. [Buy from VP](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/armand-fremont/vi-piace-la-geografia-9788843043903-286882.html)

P. Molinari-E. Riva (edited by), *Spazi e tempi della cittadinanza. Idee e percorsi interdisciplinari per la didattica,* Mimesis, Milano-Udine, 2017. [Buy from VP](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/armand-fremont/vi-piace-la-geografia-9788843043903-286882.html)

The lesson 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, possibly accompanied by educational trips, and compulsory workshop (1 ECTS). The information provided in class will also be available on the Blackboard platform.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The assessment consists of an oral exam verifying the knowledge of the topics addressed (40%), lexical mastery and clarity of presentation (10%), the ability to develop connections and critical reflections (20%) and to apply the knowledge learned (30%) in the educational context. At least one optional interim written test is scheduled during the year: the programme, the test method, its type, and timing will be made known through the Blackboard platform. The part of the programme relating to the interim test will not be the subject of further questions during the exam and its mark, if positive, will be the starting point for the final assessment (corresponding to the 40% of the overall mark).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Since the course is introductory there are no content-related prerequisites for attending it.

For a better contextualisation of the topics covered in class, a good knowledge of human geography and the use of an adequate atlas (De Agostini, Zanichelli, Touring, etc.) are recommended. We also recommend consulting the contributions published in the main sector magazines, in particular, in *Ambiente Società Territorio. Geography in schools* (magazine of the Italian Geography Teachers Association).

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

1. The textbooks indicated in the reading list can be purchased from University bookstores; they can also be purchased at other retailers. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)