



Code: GEOG-01/B (ex M-GGR/02)

Credits: 9

**Subject: Economic-Political Geography
(Monographic Course – Population and Migration)**

Main language of instruction: Italian

Teaching Staff

Head instructor

Prof. Alfonso Giordano - alfonso.giordano@unicusano.it

Prerequisites

The course is at an advanced level and is not descriptive in character: offered within the Master's Degree in International Relations (LM-52, European Studies curriculum), it requires students to have already acquired, during their previous three-year degree, the basic historical-geographical, political-economic and statistical-demographic knowledge on which the course builds.

Objectives

Objective of the course:

This monographic course in Economic-Political Geography, offered within the Master's Degree in International Relations (LM-52, European Studies curriculum) and focused on "Population and Migration", aims to train professionals with operational skills useful in contexts such as the planning of population policies and the management of national crises arising from the governance of migratory flows. To this end, the course first introduces the analytical tools of Population Geography and Demography, together with the geopolitical and geo-economic implications of population; it then examines the consequences of the shift in the geo-demographic centre of gravity and the structure of the world's geo-demographic contexts, with particular reference to the Euro-Mediterranean area; it subsequently analyses the main features of the migratory phenomenon and its multiple implications; and it concludes with an overview of the geography of migration worldwide and a geopolitical analysis of population movements in Europe, with a special focus on the case of Italy. Its core objectives are to convey the relevance of the "population" factor in contemporary international relations, to illustrate the geo-demographic dynamics underlying the geopolitical and geo-economic outcomes of states, and to develop analytical and planning skills useful for population policies and migration management.

Course structure:

The course is organised into 9 thematic Modules. Module 1 introduces the analytical tools of Population Geography and Demography; Module 2 examines the geopolitical and geo-economic implications of population; Module 3 analyses the shift of the world's geo-demographic centre of gravity; Module 4 focuses on the Euro-Mediterranean geo-demographic context; Module 5 surveys geo-demographic dynamics in the rest of the world; Module 6 addresses the migratory phenomenon and the theories that explain it; Module 7 considers the multiple implications of population movements; Module 8 maps the geography of migration worldwide; and Module 9 closes with the geopolitics of migration in Europe, with a special focus on Italy.



Competencies:

By the end of the course, the expected learning outcomes - in particular concerning the ability to analyse demographic and migratory phenomena in geographical terms - can be described as follows:

Knowledge and understanding

The course will enable students to interpret the structure and the evolutionary dynamics of the world population, as well as the actors, processes and implications of migratory phenomena, thus allowing them to identify the relationships between the dynamics analysed and the various geographical spaces of the planet.

Applying knowledge and understanding

The ability to apply knowledge and understanding will first be developed through the practical exercises in the online forums, the completion of the e-tivities and the self-assessment tests delivered on the e-learning platform, and will be consolidated during the final examination.

Making judgements

Students will acquire analytical skills and critical thinking that will enable them to reflect on the evolutionary models of the world geo-demographic landscape and of migratory processes within the global system.

Communication skills

By the end of the course students will be able to communicate, with clarity and methodological rigour, the significance of the varying configuration of geographical facts concerning the world population and migratory flows, and the importance of such knowledge for society, also through multimedia tools, so as to interact both with specialists and with a wider audience.

Learning skills

Students who have successfully passed the examination will have acquired the knowledge and the methodological and applied competencies required to pursue suitable employment in professions related to the topics of the course.

Syllabus

Programme:

Module 1 - Introductory aspects of population studies

The foundations of population geography; the foundations of demography; the key concepts of the geographical disciplines; the key concepts of the demographic disciplines; population dynamics: the demographic transition; population structure: the age pyramid.

Module 2 - The geopolitical and geo-economic implications of population

The demographic dilemma; the role of population in geopolitical models; the role of population in geo-economic models; political geo-demography: the cyclical relationships between population, geopolitics and territories; a possible critical factor: the youth bulge; a possible development factor: the demographic window of opportunity.

Module 3 - The shift of the geo-demographic centre of gravity

The evolution of the world population; the growth process and the spatial implications of demography; differences and discontinuities across geographical areas; the geo-demographic revolution: ages, peoples and territories; the three "i"s of ageing; a world of contrasts: young countries and old countries.



Module 4 - The Euro-Mediterranean geo-demographic context

Euro-Mediterranean relations on a demographic basis; a dual but converging development; the importance of socio-cultural factors; the youth bulge in the Middle East and North Africa; the Iranian and Turkish cases; the Italy-France comparison.

Module 5 - The geo-demographic context in the rest of the world

Demographic trends in the Americas; the demographic crisis of Russia; the demographic rise of Asia; the two demographic giants: China and India; the population challenges for the developing world; the youth bulge in the rest of the world.

Module 6 - The migratory phenomenon

A phenomenon as old as humankind; the different classifications of migration; the different types of migrants; the theories that attempt to explain migratory flows; theories of non-exclusively economic migration; the functions of international migration.

Module 7 - The implications of population movements

Migration and demography; migration and geographical space; migration and politics; migration and economic dynamics; migration and security; migration, rights and the environment.

Module 8 - The geography of migration in the world

Migratory flows in the United States; migratory flows in Australia and New Zealand; Asian migratory flows; the migratory flows of Sub-Saharan Africa; migratory flows in the Middle East and North Africa; migratory flows in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Module 9 - The geopolitics of migration in Europe and in Italy

Migratory flows and the European continent; immigration and European countries; immigration and the European Union; Italy from a country of emigration to a destination for immigration; policies for immigrants in Italy; immigrants in Italy.

Evaluation system and criteria

Lessons are taught in Italian. Erasmus+ students may nonetheless take the oral examination in English; the examination programme, based on English-language texts available in the university library, must be agreed upon with the instructor through a student reception, online or in person. Erasmus+ students are advised to contact the instructor by e-mail before beginning their study of the subject.

Bibliography and resources

Before beginning their study, all students are required to contact the instructor in order to agree on the examination programme and the study texts.

1. Recommended bibliography:

The following English-language titles are recommended for those who wish to deepen the topics of the course; the specific texts to be studied are to be agreed upon with the instructor:



- Bashford, A. (2014) *Global Population: History, Geopolitics, and Life on Earth*. Columbia University Press, New York.
- de Haas, H. (2023) *How Migration Really Works: A Factful Guide to the Most Divisive Issue in Politics*. Basic Books, New York.
- de Haas, H., Castles, S., Miller, M.J. (2020) *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World*, 6th ed. Red Globe Press, London-New York.
- Livi-Bacci, M. (2017) *A Concise History of World Population*, 6th ed. Wiley-Blackwell, Chichester.
- Newbold, K.B. (2017) *Population Geography: Tools and Issues*, 3rd ed. Rowman & Littlefield, Lanham (MD).
- Samers, M., Collyer, M. (2017) *Migration*, 2nd ed. Routledge, London-New York.
- Weeks, J.R. (2020) *Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues*, 13th ed. Cengage Learning, Boston.