

COURSE SYLLABUS

Title of the course: Regional Living Lab | The City, the University, and the Common Good: Regenerating the Montelungo-Colleoni Complex

Degree level: PhD, Master's degree, and Bachelor's degree (*for bachelor's students who have completed at least 60 ECTS before October 9, 2026*)

Academic year: 2026/2027

Language: English

ECTS: 6 ECTS per semester

Didactic activity type: Lesson, seminar, workshop, group work, field activity

Teaching period: First and second semester (*students may choose to participate in one or both semesters*)

Holders: Stefano Morosini

Teachers: Fulvio Adobati; Daniela Andreini; Stefano Brenna; Paolo Buffo; Federica Burini; Silvia Capretti; Anna Chiara Cimoli; Renato Ferlinghetti; Emanuele Garda; Alessandra Ghisalberti; Marco Lanzini; Tommaso Minola; Cecilia Nobili; Cristiana Ottaviano; Vittorio Paris; Jacopo Perazzoli; Davide Prati; Marco Tononi; Stefan Vieths; Federico Zoni

Duration: 36 hours

Attendance: Mandatory attendance of 75% of teaching activities

Teaching method: Interdisciplinary, challenge-based, place-based

Teaching venue: Bergamo

Required skills: No specific disciplinary prerequisites are required. A good command of English (B2 level) is required.

Objectives: The course introduces students to contemporary urban regeneration through the Montelungo-Colleoni Regional Living Lab, which is centred on the ongoing transformation of the former Montelungo-Colleoni barracks, a large military complex being redeveloped into a new university and urban district. The project will integrate teaching and research facilities, student housing, public services, commercial functions, and green infrastructure. It will provide new university spaces generating a valuable "common good" that will help enhance the cultural value of the land and bring a new balance to the networked and polycentric dynamics of the town of Bergamo: in particular, it will produce 450 student housing units, and 80 publicly accessible apartments, helping to address the growing demand for housing in an expanding university city.

The project covers approximately 25,000 square metres and is managed by Near Sgr through a public-private partnership involving the Municipality of Bergamo, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, Fondazione Cariplo, Intesa Sanpaolo, Regione Lombardia, and the University of Bergamo. The first phase of the project is expected to be completed in 2028.

Drawing on the principles of the New European Bauhaus, the course adopts an interdisciplinary approach to develop (particularly through the use of project-based activities and simulations) competences in sustainable regeneration, heritage enhancement, territorial analysis, stakeholder engagement, social innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaborative design.

The Regional Living Lab provides students and academic staff with the opportunity to engage directly with a real-world urban transformation project that will become part of the university's future educational and urban ecosystem. Through collaboration with institutional and regional

stakeholders, participants will contribute to addressing concrete territorial challenges while developing practical, interdisciplinary skills.

Course structure:

First semester

1. **The University of Bergamo and its Historical and Spatial Evolution for Community-Based Urban Regeneration** | Prof. Morosini, Prof. Ferlinghetti, Prof.ssa Ghisalberti
 - i. Historical evolution of the University of Bergamo, from institutional development to regeneration of historic buildings
 - ii. Environmental history and socio-ecological evolution of the Bergamo landscape, including a guided field excursion to observe environmental dynamics and landscape transformations
 - iii. Universities, cities and the commons: conceptual approaches to collaborative urban regeneration
 - iv. Montelungo-Colleoni as a Regional Living Lab, including historical, environmental, and civic perspectives and transformations, including introductions to involved stakeholders
 - v. Activity: Students will participate in a collective mapping of key historical, environmental and social transformations
2. **Urban Planning and Architectural Perspectives for Sustainable and Adaptive Urban Strategies** | Prof. Adobati, Prof. Garda, Prof. Paris, Prof. Vieths, Prof. Tononi, Prof. Prati
 - i. Urban regeneration and multilevel governance
 - ii. Green infrastructure, brownfield, adaptation and nature-based solutions
 - iii. Urban form of Bergamo and morphological position of Montelungo-Colleoni
 - iv. Cities in Transition: urban transformations in the post-industrial city
 - v. AI-assisted tools for architectural urban and environmental analysis
 - vi. Urban and architectural environmental analysis of the Montelungo-Colleoni complex
 - vii. Activity: Students will assemble an integrated diagnosis board including planning framework, morphological reading, environmental analysis matrix and preliminary regeneration directions
3. **Archaeology, History, and Collective Memory of the Montelungo-Colleoni Site** | Prof.ssa Nobili, Prof. Buffo, Prof. Brenna, Prof.ssa Cimoli, Prof. Lanzini, Prof. Perazzoli, Prof. Zoni
 - i. Archaeology and history of the Montelungo-Colleoni site. From the Medieval age to the XXth century
 - ii. Archives on the Montelungo-Colleoni site
 - iii. Collective memory, difficult heritage, and monuments in public space
 - iv. Digital communication and collective memory
 - v. Activity: Students will be engaged in the construction of a digital tool that includes materials and experiences collected during the course.

Second semester

4. **Commercial and Public Use Functions in the Montelungo-Colleoni Complex** | Prof.ssa Andreini
 - i. Framing commercial and public functions in university-led urban regeneration
 - ii. Secondary-data analysis, catchment area and existing service provision

- iii. Observing the Montelungo-Colleoni site and its surrounding urban ecosystem
 - iv. Primary research (data collection, sampling, informed consent, and responsible data management) and stakeholder engagement (interviews and focus groups)
 - v. Synthesizing evidence from research to create a commercial and public-use offer
 - vi. Concept prototyping, validation and presentation
 - vii. Activity: Students will prepare an evidence-based commercial and public functions concept pack for the Montelungo-Colleoni complex, focusing on a particular user group, functional cluster, or strategic challenge, considering the relationship between commercial sustainability and public value.
5. **Entrepreneurship and Innovation as Strategies for Territorial Development** | Prof. Minola, Prof.ssa Burini
- i. Introduction to concepts of entrepreneurship and business model innovation
 - ii. Application of the business model canvas and value proposition canvas to generate new sustainable and viable solutions for stakeholders
 - iii. Critical evaluation of solutions proposed to converge on a single final solution to be presented to stakeholders.
 - iv. Activity: Students will apply the introduced methodologies to develop user-centered and sustainable solutions that may contribute to the future evolution of the space, presenting their results in a pitch presentation.
6. **Photovoice as a Creative and Collaborative Methodology to Explore Urban Regeneration** | Prof.ssa Ottaviano; Prof.ssa Capretti
- i. Introduction to Photovoice as a creative, collaborative method for fostering a specific perspective (through photography) on urban regeneration.
 - ii. Technical training in visual sociology and a corresponding assignment to photograph "fissures of peace" within the city and identify potential spaces of inclusion within the Montelungo-Colleoni complex and surrounding area.
 - iii. Conscious use of AI to create photographs to promote visions of creative, beautiful, shared spaces that do not yet exist.
 - iv. Guided collective analysis of photographs produced, including identifying thematic strands, drafting captions, and selecting works for the final presentation.
 - v. Activity: Students' photography works will be presented in a final photography exhibition for the stakeholders and community.

Teaching methods:

- Place-based learning
- Challenge-based learning
- Project work
- Workshops
- Field visits
- Stakeholder engagement
- Collaborative learning
- Public dissemination

Verification of learning:

The final assessment of each semester will consider students' participation, the quality of their project work, and their final presentation.

Extra info:

The University of Bergamo is a partner of the BAUHAUS4EU European University Alliance, which brings together partner institutions across Europe to develop a shared campus and to advance innovative, challenge-based and interdisciplinary education inspired by the values of the New European Bauhaus. One such challenge-based educational initiative is the Regional Living Lab (RLL). RLLs operate as experimental learning environments, encouraging interdisciplinary teaching formats and collaboration across faculties to engage students from diverse academic backgrounds. Learning activities are embedded in real regional contexts and developed in close interaction with local actors, social environments, and community knowledge. RLLs focus on the revitalisation, reuse, and transformation of unused or vacant built and unbuilt spaces.

Online resources:

[BAUHAUS4EU Regional Living Labs](#)

[New European Bauhaus \(NEB\) Compass](#)