



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Cultural Anthropology

1920-1-E3901N044

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#### Learning objectives

##### *Knowledge and understanding*

Starting from an idea of anthropology as the study and critical understanding of human diversity, this course aims to offer students: i) some basic methodological instruments of cultural anthropology and ethnography; ii) the main theoretical frameworks of cultural anthropology and; iii) some useful suggestions to read critically contemporary cultural processes by ethnography and by interpretive anthropology.

##### *Applying knowledge and understanding*

Furthermore, the course aims to focalize student's attention on the observation of cultural facts from an ethnographic perspective, and on the interpretation of everyday life details as relevant

#### Contents

Theoretical and methodological issues of Anthropology and Ethnography starting from the origins to current debates regarding the dynamics of culture in current societies. Introduction to the ethnographic approach to understand cultural variation.

#### Detailed program

1. What is cultural anthropology; 2. The concept of culture; 3. Ethnocentrism and relativism; 4. Ethnography; 5. Economic systems; 6. Reproduction, kinship and family life; 7. Culture and power relations; 8. Communication; 9.

Religion; 10. Illness, disease, malaise, cure; 11. How we understand societies through culture (myths, rituals, leisure, artistic expressions) ; 12. How anthropology interprets globalization: mobility, migrants, foreigners, travellers, tourists, local identities; culture and development.

## **Prerequisites**

Basic knowledge of social theory

## **Teaching methods**

Lectures, films, documentaries, and class discussions

## **Assessment methods**

Written exam: questions based on the teaching material of the course

Due to covid-19 pandemic, the written exam will be replaced with online oral examinations in June, July, and September 2020.

## **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

Barbara Miller (2017), Cultural Anthropology in a globalizing world, 4th edition, Pearson Education inc.

Short readings will be posted on the elearning platform Moodle during the course.

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