



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

### Antropologia Culturale

2021-1-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**

In the event that the emergency due to Covid-19 pandemic continues during spring 2021, lectures will be held online. All of them will be videorecorded, some in streaming, others pre-recorded. Students will be given assignments to facilitate the practical usage of anthropological concepts.

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## **Assessment methods**

In the event that pre-covid-19 conditions are restored, the examination will be written with questions based on the teaching material of the course.

## **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.

Additional readings:

- Francesco Diodato and Marta Scaglioni (eds.) (forthcoming), *Invecchiamento e Cura: prospettive antropologiche*, Ledizioni, Milano. Introduzione: Invecchiamento, cura e assistenza; Cap.2: I migranti che mantengono "italiane" le famiglie italiane: le badanti e l'assistenza privata alle persone anziane - S. Rugolotto, A. Larotonda, S. Van deer Geest.

- Matteo Aria e Adriano Favole (2015) *L'arte della condivisione. Per una ecologia dei beni comuni*. UTET, Torino, pp.24-33.

- Matteo Aria (2016) *I doni di Mauss*, CISU, Roma, Capitolo 5. pp. 111-127.

