



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Intercultural Communication in The Global Age Lab.

2021-2-F8802N027

Learning objectives

The workshop aims at providing the essential conceptual tools to analyze everyday experience in highly differentiated, interconnected and mediatized societies.

At the end of the course, students will be able to understand the relationship between cultural references and communication practices, to identify a variety of areas in which cultural differences emerge and reconfigure communication processes, to distinguish between different analytical dimensions that come into play when people with different linguistic competences as well as diverse cultural background interact. They will also greatly improve their intercultural communication competencies.

Contents

The workshop addresses the issues of the neutrality of privileges, cultural appropriation, homo/femonationalism, inclusive language from an interdisciplinary perspective, with particular attention to gender and sexuality issues.

Detailed program

Do cultures have a gender? A sex, or a sexuality? The workshop is structured in 8 two-hour meetings - 4 online and 4 in attendance. These are dedicated to deepen the link between cultural studies and gender&sexuality studies through a participatory methodology that allows to test and develop listening, communication and reflexive skills of the participants (theory and praxis). The first meeting - online - will be dedicated to the concept of positionality (starting from oneself), to active verbal and non-verbal listening and to the recognition of the structures of privileges and oppressions proper to each culture (with particular reference to white privilege). In the second meeting - offline

- we will address the issue of the construction of the Other and of otherness as a relationship. The third meeting - online - is dedicated to the use of inclusive languages as opposed to the so-called hate speech. The fourth - online - the fifth and the sixth meeting - in presence - are aimed at deepening some concepts such as gender, sexuality, normativity and intersection between class, race, gender etc. from a queer and postcolonial perspective. The seventh is dedicated to reflection on safe-r spaces and care understood as the construction of relationships with physical and non-physical environment.

The last meeting is dedicated to the collective and individual self-evaluation, as foreseen by the participatory methodologies used, and to the deepening of some issues that emerged previously (at the request of the participants).

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Prerequisites

Knowledge of the main theoretical and research perspectives in the field of sociology of culture and media studies. Knowledge and basic skills related to the use of both qualitative techniques for social research. Having attended the course: "Intercultural Communication in the Global Age".

Teaching methods

Online and offline interactive and participatory methods: readings, group works, role-playing, workshops.

Assessment methods

A final assessment would take place during the last session.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

- McIntosh, Peggy, 1997, "White Privilege and Male Privilege: a Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondences through Work in Women's Studies" in *Critical white studies: looking behind the mirror*, Temple Univ. Press, pp. 291-299
- Alcoff, Linda, 1991, *The Problem of Speaking for Others* in *Cultural Critique*, 20 (5)
- Combahee River Collective, (1979) 2015, "Combahee River Collective Statement" in *This Bridge Called my Back. Writings by radical women of color*, State University of New York (SUNY) Press, Albany.
- Giuliani, Gaia, 2013, "La sottile linea bianca. Intersezioni di razza, genere e classe nell'Italia postcoloniale", Il Mulino.

