UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Cultural Anthropology - A-L

2021-2-E1901R142-AL

Course title

Cultural Anthropology

Topics and course structure

The course is an introduction to cultural anthropology that today is a critical knowledge aimed at understanding and analyzing cultural diversity and the processes of identities construction in the contemporary world.

"Culture" is a notion that common sense often invests with stereotypes or reduces to simple culturalism. Anthropology, born from the meeting with other visions of life and human being in distant lands, is an important tool for understanding how cultural diversity is constructed and what are the languages, practices and tools that establish this diversity.

During the course, special attention will be devoted to ethnographic method as anthropological instrument apt to understand cultural alterity.

Objectives

The course aims to provide students with solid knowledge in cultural anthropology, presenting some notion of discipline such as society, ethnicity, religion, rite, power, gender, etc. The course also intends to present the methodological issues of anthropological approach such as field research, the "immersion" in another world of life,

decentralization of the perspective etc. In this sense, the discipline reveals its educational dimension exploring the phenomena of acculturation and the encounter with the "other", but also in the clash and friction or in the fascination that diversity can arouse.

The lessons and the readings provide the students with the tools necessary for the understanding of the dynamics of identity and cultural differences. The goal is to develop an attitude to comparison and critical approach to multiplicity and cultural realities. The students will gain useful knowledge for critical reflection on the complexity of the contemporary world.

Methodologies

Lectures, slides and audio-visual materials, class discussions. The use of various teaching materials, including audio-visual materials, aims at encouraging learning skills and critical skills in common discussions.

Attendace and active participation are recommended.

The exam can be performed in English by foreign/Erasmus students.

Online and offline teaching materials

Programme and references for attending students

Programme and references for non-attending students

Assessment methods

Written test and oral examination will assess the strength of the acquired skills and the ability of the students to critically read and move between the texts and to establish comparisons and connections with other courses.

If your score at the written test is under the lower minimum (18/30), you can not attend the oral examination.

Written test: three questions about Fabietti's book.

The registration to written test and oral examination is mandatory (see “On line registry”).

Office hours

appointment by mail

Programme validity

two years

Course tutors and assistants

Chiara Calzana

Pietro Repishti