



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Peoples and Cultures of Latin America

2021-2-F0101R068

Course title

Cultures and Societies of the Americas

Topics and course structure

The course is divided into three thematic units.

The first part will be dedicated to the analysis of the “indigenous issues” through anthropological theories (in particular “ethnic friction” and “territorialisation”). We will reflect also on the social role of anthropologists in the territorial claims of these groups.

Secondly, we will examine the interconnections between ethno-racial issues (on the one side, the ideology of racial democracy e mestizaje; on the other, the whitening policies) and territorial claims of *quilombolas*, the descendants of African slaves.

Finally, starting from an anthropological deconstruction of the nature-culture dichotomy, we will see how the sense of belonging to a territory is strictly connected to specific local cosmologies that imply contextually different ways of conceiving the relationship between human and non human world

Objectives

Students are expected to acquire specific knowledge about the indigenous, ethno-racial and territorial issues that characterize the Brazilian context, learning to draw appropriate connections with cultural, social and political dynamics that characterize the rest of the continent.

Methodologies

Lectures, slides and audio-visual materials, class discussions.

Online and offline teaching materials

Programme and references for attending students

Programme and references for non-attending students

Assessment methods

Oral examination. Attending and non-attending students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the contents of the course. They should also be able to draw connections among different topics and to analyse them

critically.

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

Office hours

On appointment by e-mail.

Programme validity

Two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants
