



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

### Culture e Società delle Americhe

2021-2-F0101R068

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#### Course title

Cultures and Societies of the Americas

#### Topics and course structure

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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

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## **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**

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## **Programme and references for non-attending students**

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## **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**

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