



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Anthropology of Kinship and Gender

2021-1-F0101R012

Course title

Anthropology of Kinship and Gender

Topics and course structure

The course 1) presents different theoretical approaches in the anthropology of kinship and gender; 2) it explores the impact of feminist anthropology and gender studies on the anthropological analysis of kinship; 3) the focus is on recent debates on reproduction and other transitions in individual and households' life-cycles.

Objectives

The course aims:

1. to enable master students to develop an anthropologically-informed understanding of the construction of parental bonds;
2.
3.

Methodologies

Lectures

N.B. During the Covid-19 emergency, lectures will be video-recorded. Some classes will take place by webinar. A maximum of 3 classes over the entire course, if health conditions permit, will be carried out in presence

Readings and watching videos

Activities on the topics covered by the course

Online and offline teaching materials

Teaching materials will be available from October.

Programme and references for attending students

Current debates on kinship have shown a complex correlation between the biological aspects of reproduction and human life and broader kinship relationships. This is due partly to the impact of gender studies on kinship and to a new-found interest in the body and in personhood, as well to demographic changes, and to the spread of artificial reproductive technologies and of new family forms.

The course explores some of the central issues in the anthropology of kinship and gender. It introduces key concepts such as "descent", "marriage", "domestic groups/cycles", "sex/ gender" and "relationality". It also analyses contemporary debates on reproductive health, assisted reproductive technologies, multiple family forms and family dynamics.

The focus is on reproduction and other life transitions as privileged events to observe the interactions of gender, kinship, politics, religion, science and law, and to reflect on how these interrelated social fields affect relations and subjectivities.

References

- 1) L. Stone, *Kinship and gender. An introduction*, Westview Press, 2013.
- 2) M. C. Inhor, *Reproductive Disruption. Gender, Technology, and Biopolitics in the New Millennium*. Berghahn Book, 2007.
- 3) L. Mamo, *Queering Reproduction: Achieving Pregnancy in the Age of Technoscience*. Duke University Press, 2007.
- 4) I. Maffi, *Abortion in post-revolutionary Tunisia. Politics, Medicine and Morality*, _____

Programme and references for non-attending students

See the programme for attending students.

Assessment methods

Grade will be based on the following:

1) Completion of the exercises assigned during the course

2).....

N. B. During the Covid-19 emergency, oral exams will be on-line only. They will be conducted using the WebEx platform; the course e-learning page will contain a public link to the exam for virtual viewers.

For students who will not attend lectures and carry out the activities proposed during the course, grade will be based on final oral exam only.

Office hours

On appointment by e-mail: claudia.mattalucci@unimib.it

Programme validity

Programme validity is two academic years

Course tutors and assistants

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