UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Anthropology of China

2122-2-F0101R072

Course title

The theoretical and epistemological foundations of Traditional Chinese Medicine

Topics and course structure

The course critically discusses the epistemological and theoretical foundations of the forms of knowledge codified as Traditional Chinese Medicine. It uses a comparative perspective that crosses different medical systems, with particular reference to Western medicine.

Objectives

Through the study of the traditional Chinese medicine, the course aims to provide some conceptual tools useful for understanding the cultures and the societies of China and, more generally, the relations between cultures in the contemporary world.

Methodologies

Lectures. Power point.

Online and offline teaching materials

Online and offline teaching materials.

Programme and references for attending students

The lessons aim to provide the conceptual tools to understand Chinese medicine and, more generally, the medical systems and, hence, the complexity of the cultures and of their interrelations. They aim to assist students in analyzing the texts and in preparing the final written test.

The following are the main topics:

i. The invention of Traditional Chinese Medicine: standardization practices, institutionalization policies, hybridization dynamics.

ii. Main concepts and practices of Traditional Chinese Medicine: from classical texts to university handbooks.

iii. The theoretical and epistemological foundations of Chinese medical knowledge.

iv. The philosophy of change: *Yi Jing*.

v. Correlative thinking.

vi. Chinese medicine as a cultural system.

vii. Therapeutic efficacy.

Reference materials will be suggested during the course

Programme and references for non-attending students

Program and references are the same as the ones provided to attending students

Assessment methods

Written exam.

Students are required to produce a written paper that can cover theoretical aspects or case-studies.

The topic of the paper must be agreed (by email or telephone) with the professor.

The paper may be written in Italian or English and must not exceed 7,000 words.

Deadline: seven says before the exam

Office hours

Before and after classes by appointment (via email)

Programme validity

Two academic years

Course tutors and assistants