UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Anthropology of Kinship and Gender

2122-1-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. **_____ of other transitions in individual and households' life-cycles.**

Methodologies

Lectures

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 kiship 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) A collection of essays on the anthropology of kinship and gender (available on the e-learning platform from 1 October).

2) S. Grilli, *Antropologia delle famiglie contemporanee*, Carocci, 2019.

3) C. Mattalucci, *Antropologia e riproduzione. Attese, fratture e ricomposizioni della procreazione e della genitorialità in Italia*, Libreria Cortina, 2017.

4) One text to choose from:

R. Di Silvio, *Parentele di confine. La pratica adottiva tra desiderio locale e mondo globale*, Danyang M&J Publisging House 2021

O. Donath, *Pentirsi di essere madri*, Bollati Boringhieri 2017.

C. S. Guerzoni, *Sistemi procreativi. Etnografia dell'omogenitorialità in Italia*, Franco Angeli, 2020.

M. Scaglioni, F. Diodati, *Antropologia dell'invecchiamento e della cura: Prospettive globali*, Ledizioni 2021.

J. Favi, *Invecchiare. Prospettive antropologiche*, Meltemi 2021.

Students who do not read Italian should contact the course instructor for an alternative reading list.

Programme and references for non-attending students

See the programme for attendig students.

Assessment methods

Grade will be based on the following:

1) Completion of the exercises assigned during the course

2)

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

Rossana Di Silvio: rossana.disilvio@unimib.it

Francesco Diodati: f.diodati@campus.unimib.it

Chiara Calzana: c.calzana@campus.unimib.it