UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Medical Anthropology

2122-1-F0101R013

Course title

Medical Anthropology

Topics and course structure

The course of Medical Anthropology aims to highlight the social, cultural, political and economic dimensions of the body, health, disease and systems of care, with particular reference to the geopolitical assets and socio-economic inequalities that have a strong impact on health conditions of different worlds populations. These issues will be examined along theoretical and ethnographic paths divided into four thematic cycles: 1) introduction to medical anthropology (concepts, paradigms and fundamental texts); 2) social suffering, political violence and health inequalities in the perspective of Global Health; 3) mental health and ethnopsychiatry; 4) the contributions of medical anthropology in understanding demographic transformations and global aging. The first two cycles refer to a common section in which the fundamental topics will be addressed. The third and fourth cycle of lessons are part of an optional section that deals with specific issues within the discipline. At the end of each cycle of the optional section, students will be invited to present to the whole class a working group in which the salient features of topics and lessons will be exposed. The organization of the groups, the distribution of themes and presentation dates will be agreed during the first lesson. The exercise will be part of the final evaluation which will be calculated from the average of the mark obtained by the group (expressed out of thirty) and the mark obtained by the individual student during the exam.

Objectives

The course of medical anthropology aims to provide in-depth knowledge and critical analysis skills on the main

topics of scientific interest in the discipline, according to a historical perspective and integrating into contemporary theoretical and methodological debate. At the end of the course, students are required to have acquired the following skills:

- understanding of the methodological and application aspects of the anthropological approach to the issues of health, disease and treatment;

- critical skills with respect to the different theoretical perspectives that have explored the cultural, sociological and political interactions between bodies and sickness;

- knowledge of the various sectors and application areas of the discipline, both in terms of research and in terms of therapeutic intervention and public policy;

- development of critical skills and autonomous orientation among all the themes and topics addressed, also exploring the possibility of personally formulating new and original research interests.

Methodologies

Frontal lessons; seminar meetings; viewing, analysis and discussion of multimedia and documentary materials; cooperative learning sessions; lecture notes.

Online and offline teaching materials

During the course, bibliographic references and supplementary teaching materials will be progressively uploaded to the e-learning platform to allow all students to carry out group activities and further investigate any issues of personal interest. In addition, this will allow non-attending students to regularly follow the progress of lessons and to find main concepts and useful materials for the autonomous preparation of the exam.

Programme and references for attending students

The program and the exam bibliography are indicated below.

Attending students are invited to study three texts chosen as follows :

<u>One text of your choice for the first thematic cycle (common section):</u>

- Donatella COZZI, 2012, *Le parole dell'antropologia medica*, Perugia, Morlacchi Editore

- Byron J. GOOD, Michael M.J. FISCHER, Sarah S. WILLEN, Mary-Jo DEL VECCHIO-GOOD, eds., 2010, A Reader in Medical Anthropology. Theoretical Trajectories, Emergent Realities, Wiley-Blackwel.
- Byron J. GOOD, 1999, *Narrare la malattia. Lo sguardo antropologico sul rapporto medico-paziente*, Einaudi Edizioni di Comunità, Torino [B. GOOD, 1994, *Medicine, Rationality, and Experience. An Anthropological*

Perspective, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press].

- Robert A. HAHN, 1995, *Sickness and Healing: An Anthropological Perspective,* New Heaven, Yale University Press.
- Arthur KLEINMAN, ed., 1988, *The illness narratives. Suffering, healing and the human condition*, New York, Basic Book.
- Arthur KLEINMAN, V. DAS, M. LOCK, 1997, eds., *Social Suffering*, Berkeley, University of California Press.
- Margaret LOCK, Vin-Kim NGUYEN, 2010, *An Anthropology of Biomedicine,* Wiley-Blackwell.
- Giovanni PIZZA, 2005, *Antropologia Medica. Saperi, pratiche e politiche del corpo*, Roma, Carrocci.
- Robert POOL, 2005, Wenzel GEISSLER, *Medical Anthropology,* "Understanding Public Health", Maidenhead (Berkshire, England), McGraw-Hill Education.
- Carolyn SARGENT, Thomas M. JOHNSON, 1996, eds., *Medical anthropology: Contemporary theory and method*, Westport, CT, Praeger.
- Ivo QUARANTA, 2006, *Antropologia Medica. I testi fondamentali*, Milano, Raffaello Cortina.
- Merrill SINGER, Pamela I. ERICKSON, 2001, *A Companion to Medical Anthropology,* Wiley-Blackwell.
- Merrill SINGER, Hans BEAR, 2007, *Introducing Medical Anthropology: A Discipline in Action,* Lanham, MD, AltaMira Press.

<u>One text of your choice for the second thematic cycle (common section):</u>

- Hans BAER, Merrill SINGER, 2003, *Medical Anthropology and the World System*, Westport (Connecticut) – London, Praeger.
- Peter J. BROWN, 1998, *Understanding and Applying Medical Anthropology,* Mayfield, Mountain View.

- Paul FARMER, 1999, *Infections and inequalities. The modern plagues*, University of California Press.
- Paul FARMER, 2003, *Pathologies of power. Health, human rights, and the new war on the poor*, University of California Press.
- Didier FASSIN, 2007, *When Bodies Remember. Experiences and Politics of AIDS in South Africa,* University of California Press.
- Didier FASSIN, 2018, *Life. A Critical User's Manual,* Cambridge, Polity Press.
- Nancy KREIGER, 2015, *Health Disparities and the Body*, Boston, Harvard School of Public Health.
- Margaret LOCK, 2001, *Twice Dead: Organ Transplants and the Reinvention of Death,* University of California Press.
- Merrill SINGER, Hans BEAR, 1995, Critical Medical Anthropology, New York, Rootledge.
- Veena DAS, 2007, Life and Words. Violence and the Descent into the Ordinary, New York, Paperback
- Veena DAS, 2015, Affliction: Health, Disease, Poverty, New York, Fordham University Press.

The last text will be chosen from those indicated in the third or fourth thematic cycle (optional section).

NB: Those who in the working group have explored issues related to the third cycle will have to choose a text among those indicated in the list of the fourth cycle, and vice versa.

<u>Third thematic cycle (optional section):</u>

- **Roberto BENEDUCE, 2004, *Frontiere dell'identità e della memoria. Etnopsichiatria e migrazioni in un mondo creolo*, Milano, Franco Angeli.**

- **Roberto BENEDUCE, 2007, *Etnopsichiatria. Sofferenza mentale e alterità fra Storia, dominio e***

***cultura*, Roma, Carocci.**

- **Roberto BENEDUCE, 2010, *Archeologie del trauma. Un'antropologia del sottosuolo*, Roma-Bari, Laterza**

- **Piero COPPO, 2003, *Tra psiche e culture. Elementi di etnopsichiatria*, Torino, Bollati Boringhieri.**

- **Piero COPPO, 2005, *Le ragioni del dolore. Etnopsichiatria della depressione,* Torino, Bollati Boringhieri.**

- **Donatella COZZI, 2007, *Le imperfezioni del silenzio. Riflessioni antropologiche sulla depressione femminile in area alpina*, Roma-Acireale, Bonanno.**

- **Didier FASSIN, Richard RECTHMAN, 2007, *L'Empire du traumatisme. Enquête sur la condition de victime,* Paris, Flammarion [*The Empire of Trauma. An Inquiry into the Condition of Victimhood,* Princeton University Press, 2009; *L'impero del trauma. Nascita della condizione di vittima*, Milano, Meltemi, 2020].**

- **Ian HACKING, 1995, *Rewriting the Soul. Multiple Personality and the Sciences of Memory,* Princeton, Princeton University Press [*La riscoperta dell'anima. Personalità multipla e scienze della memoria,* Milano, Feltrinelli, 1996].**

- **Simona TALLIANI, Francesco VACCHIANO, *Antropologia ed etnopsichiatria della migrazione*, Milano, Unicopli.**

- **Allan YOUNG, 1995, *The Harmony of Illusion. Inventing Post-traumatic Stress Disorder*, Princeton, Princeton University Press.**

Fourth thematic cycle (optional section):

- E. CUMMING; W. HENRY, 1961, *Growing Old: The Process of Disengagement,* New York, Basic Books.
- A. LEIBING, L. COHEN, eds., *Thinking About Dementia: Culture, Loss, and the Anthropology of Senility*, New Brunswick - London, Rutgers University Press.
- M. LOCK, 2013, *The Alzheimer Conundrum. Entanglements of Dementia and Aging*, Princeton, Princeton University Press.
- N. ROSE, 2006, *The Politics of Life Itself: Biomedicine, Power, and Subjectivity in the Twenty-First Century,* Princeton, Princeton University Press.
- *E. PASQUARELLI, 2018, Antropologia dell'Alzheimer. Neurologia e politiche della normalità, Roma, Alpes.*
- L. NGATCHA-RIBERT, 2012, *Alzheimer : la construction sociale d'une maladie,* Paris, Dunod.
- M. SCAGLIONE, F. DIODATI, a cura di, 2021, *Antropologia dell'invecchiamento e della cura: prospettive globali,* Milano, Ledizioni.
- G. WEIST, 2013, *Chronic Disease in the Twentieth Century. A History,* Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore.

Programme and references for non-attending students

In place of the working group carried out by attending students, non-attending students will have to prepare themselves on four texts to be chosen from the bibliographic lists relating to each of the four thematic cycles (without distinction between common and optional section).

One text of your choice for the first thematic cycle:

- Donatella COZZI, 2012, *Le parole dell'antropologia medica*, Perugia, Morlacchi Editore

- Byron J. GOOD, Michael M.J. FISCHER, Sarah S. WILLEN, Mary-Jo DEL VECCHIO-GOOD, eds., 2010, A Reader in Medical Anthropology. Theoretical Trajectories, Emergent Realities, Wiley-Blackwel.
- Byron J. GOOD, 1999, *Narrare la malattia. Lo sguardo antropologico sul rapporto medico-paziente*, Einaudi Edizioni di Comunità, Torino [B. GOOD, 1994, *Medicine, Rationality, and Experience. An Anthropological Perspective*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press].
- Robert A. HAHN, 1995, *Sickness and Healing: An Anthropological Perspective,* New Heaven, Yale University Press.
- Arthur KLEINMAN, ed., 1988, *The illness narratives. Suffering, healing and the human condition*, New York, Basic Book.
- Arthur KLEINMAN, V. DAS, M. LOCK, 1997, eds., *Social Suffering*, Berkeley, University of California Press.
- Margaret LOCK, Vin-Kim NGUYEN, 2010, *An Anthropology of Biomedicine,* Wiley-Blackwell.
- Giovanni PIZZA, 2005, *Antropologia Medica. Saperi, pratiche e politiche del corpo*, Roma, Carrocci.
- Robert POOL, 2005, Wenzel GEISSLER, *Medical Anthropology,* "Understanding Public Health", Maidenhead (Berkshire, England), McGraw-Hill Education.
- Carolyn SARGENT, Thomas M. JOHNSON, 1996, eds., *Medical anthropology: Contemporary theory and method*, Westport, CT, Praeger.
- Ivo QUARANTA, 2006, *Antropologia Medica. I testi fondamentali*, Milano, Raffaello Cortina.
- Merrill SINGER, Pamela I. ERICKSON, 2001, *A Companion to Medical Anthropology,* Wiley-Blackwell.
- Merrill SINGER, Hans BEAR, 2007, *Introducing Medical Anthropology: A Discipline in Action,* Lanham, MD, AltaMira Press.

One text of your choice for the second thematic cycle:

- Hans BAER, Merrill SINGER, 2003, *Medical Anthropology and the World System*, Westport (Connecticut) – London, Praeger.
- Peter J. BROWN, 1998, *Understanding and Applying Medical Anthropology,* Mayfield, Mountain View.

- Paul FARMER, 1999, *Infections and inequalities. The modern plagues*, University of California Press.
- Paul FARMER, 2003, *Pathologies of power. Health, human rights, and the new war on the poor*, University of California Press.
- Didier FASSIN, 2007, *When Bodies Remember. Experiences and Politics of AIDS in South Africa,* University of California Press.
- Didier FASSIN, 2018, *Life. A Critical User's Manual,* Cambridge, Polity Press.
- Nancy KREIGER, 2015, *Health Disparities and the Body*, Boston, Harvard School of Public Health.
- Margaret LOCK, 2001, *Twice Dead: Organ Transplants and the Reinvention of Death,* University of California Press.
- Merrill SINGER, Hans BEAR, 1995, Critical Medical Anthropology, New York, Rootledge.
- Veena DAS, 2007, Life and Words. Violence and the Descent into the Ordinary, New York, Paperback
- Veena DAS, 2015, Affliction: Health, Disease, Poverty, New York, Fordham University Press.

One text of your choice for the third thematic cycle:

- Roberto BENEDUCE, 2004, *Frontiere dell'identità e della memoria. Etnopsichiatria e migrazioni in un mondo creolo*, Milano, Franco Angeli.
- Roberto BENEDUCE, 2007, *Etnopsichiatria. Sofferenza mentale e alterità fra Storia, dominio e cultura*, Roma, Carocci.
- Roberto BENEDUCE, 2010, *Archeologie del trauma. Un'antropologia del sottosuolo*, Roma-Bari, Laterza.
- Piero COPPO, 2003, *Tra psiche e culture. Elementi di etnopsichiatria*, Torino, Bollati Boringhieri.
- Piero COPPO, 2005, *Le ragioni del dolore. Etnopsichiatria della depressione,* Torino, Bollati Boringhieri.
- Donatella COZZI, 2007, *Le imperfezioni del silenzio. Riflessioni antropologiche sulla depressione femminile in area alpina*, Roma-Acireale, Bonanno.
- Didier FASSIN, Richard RECTHMAN, 2007, *L'Empire du traumatisme. Enquête sur la condition de victime,* Paris, Flammarion [*The Empire of Trauma. An Inquiry into the Condition of Victimhood,* Princeton University Press, 2009; *L'impero del trauma. Nascita della condizione di vittima*, Milano, Meltemi, 2020].
- Ian HACKING, 1995, *Rewriting the Soul. Multiple Personality and the Sciences of Memory,* Princeton, Princeton University Press [*La riscoperta dell'anima. Personalità multipla e scienze della memoria,* Milano, Feltrinelli, 1996].
- Simona TALLIANI, Francesco VACCHIANO, *Antropologia ed etnopsichiatria della migrazione*, Milano, Unicopli.
- Allan YOUNG, 1995, *The Harmony of Illusion. Inventing Post-traumatic Stress Disorder*, Princeton, Princeton University Press.

<u>One text of your choice for the fourth thematic cycle</u>

- E. CUMMING; W. HENRY, 1961, *Growing Old: The Process of Disengagement,* New York, Basic Books.
- A. LEIBING, L. COHEN, eds., *Thinking About Dementia: Culture, Loss, and the Anthropology of Senility*, New Brunswick - London, Rutgers University Press.
- M. LOCK, 2013, *The Alzheimer Conundrum. Entanglements of Dementia and Aging*, Princeton, Princeton University Press.
- N. ROSE, 2006, *The Politics of Life Itself: Biomedicine, Power, and Subjectivity in the Twenty-First Century,* Princeton, Princeton University Press.
- E. PASQUARELLI, 2018, *Antropologia dell'Alzheimer. Neurologia e politiche della normalità*, Roma, Alpes.
- L. NGATCHA-RIBERT, 2012, *Alzheimer : la construction sociale d'une maladie,* Paris, Dunod.
- M. SCAGLIONE, F. DIODATI, a cura di, 2021, *Antropologia dell'invecchiamento e della cura: prospettive globali,* Milano, Ledizioni.
- G. WEIST, 2013, *Chronic Disease in the Twentieth Century. A History,* Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore.

Assessment methods

Oral exam about the course's topics and the texts in the program. The oral exam consists of four questions : 1) the contents of the first book of your choice (first cycle of lessons), 2) the contents of the second book of your choice (second cycle of lessons), 3) the contents of the third book of your choice (to be chosen among the texts indicated for the third or fourth cycle of lessons), 4) finally, a general question about the lessons and / or slides of the course will serve to attest the ability to create connections and critically analyze the topics explored in class. The final evaluation will also include the grade obtained by the group during the presentation in the classroom. The final grade will be obtained from the average between the working-group grade (expressed out of thirty) and the grade obtained by the individual student during the exam. For non-attending students, group work must be replaced by a critical and independent reading of two articles from those proposed in the bibliography. The main contents and salient points of the text in question will be discussed during the examination, paying particular attention to personal reflections.

Office hours

Friday from 14.00 to 15.00 by appointment to be made with the teacher via e-mail (gloria.frisone@unimib.it). Reception requests are accepted both in person and remotely (teacher's room: gloria.frisone@unimib.webex.com).

Programme validity

The programs are valid for two academic years

Course tutors and assistants