UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Thought Systems, History of Ideas

2122-1-F0101R010

Course title

"Barbarism" and The Diversity of Cultures

Topics and course structure

This class aims to critically reflect on the notions of "barbarian" and "barbarism". We shall examine some uses, highlighted by the anthropological and the historical discourse, that will lead us to address issues such as ethnocentrism, the culture/nature divide, cultural identities and diversities.

Our starting point will be some illuminating pages of Claude Lévi-Strauss, to which we shall devote a careful analysis.

Objectives

Through this teaching, by means of an active attendance to lectures, we intend to promote:

- Knowledge and understanding of the models of self-understanding of the human being - understood both as a singularity and in relation to different social formations - developed within the Western philosophical tradition, with particular reference to the ontological, ethical, political, religious and cultural variables in general that structure the fields of experience and sediment in collective mentalities;
- Ability to put into relation different paradigms, grasping the recurring tension between historical and transcendental approaches;
- Ability to apply knowledge and models, contributing to the development of critical skills for interpreting cultural contexts, and to the autonomy of judgment with respect to the theoretical tools and research

protocols deployed.

Methodologies

Lectures, seminar discussions, papers assignment.

Online and offline teaching materials

Texts, PPP slides, videos.

Programme and references for attending students

Reading list:

Levi-Strauss C., *Razza e storia e altri studi di antropologia*, Einaudi, Torino 1967 (o ediz. successiva);

Lévi-Strauss C., *Da Montaigne a Montaigne*, Raffaello Cortina, Milano 2020;

Hartog, F., *Memoria di Ulisse. Racconti sulla frontiera nell'antica Grecia*, Einaudi, Torino 2002;

and three essays from G. Cerchiai, G. Rota, L. Simonutti (eds.), *Barbarie in età moderna e contemporanea*, Franco Angeli, Milano 2018.

Programme and references for non-attending students

Reading list:

Levi-Strauss C., *Razza e storia e altri studi di antropologia*, Einaudi, Torino 1967 (o ediz. successiva);

Lévi-Strauss C., *Da Montaigne a Montaigne*, Raffaello Cortina, Milano 2020;

Hartog, F., *Memoria di Ulisse. Racconti sulla frontiera nell'antica Grecia*, Einaudi, Torino 2002;

and three essays from G. Cerchiai, G. Rota, L. Simonutti (des.), *Barbarie in età moderna e contemporanea*, Franco Angeli, Milano 2018.

Assessment methods

Oral exam, aimed at verifying knowledge of the topics addressed and of the reading list; the ability to argue for or against a given thesis; the autonomy of critical reflection.

Office hours

By appointment, writing to: giorgio.bertolotti@unimib.it

Programme validity

Programs are valid for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants