UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Ethnography and Discourse Analysis

2223-1-F8802N005

Learning objectives

Practical knowledge of ethnography and fieldwork, and introduction to discourse analysis method in the context of fieldwork research.
Capacity to apply ethnographic methods and discourse analysis to explore various research object and research field.
Capacity to integrate information and complex knowledge about social interaction in different institutional and everyday context. Formulate autonomously judgment about research choices.
Capacit to effectively communicate research outputs and the contents of empirical and theoretical essays.
Capacity to learn and to deepen autonomously sociological literature through individual and team work.

Contents

Fieldwork analysis of interactions and discursive practices in specific places and groups; theory and analysis of the discourse processes in urban, economic, educational, cultural and institutional fields.

Detailed program

The course integrate two partes. One dedicated to the ethnography, particularly related to research methods, the other to discourse analysis.
The course will start with frontal lectures dealing with experiences and methods of ethnographic research and discourse analysis.
Subsequently, a fieldwork research activity will be organized with the students and students will have the possibility to discuss their fieldwork material.
The aim is to provide theoretical and methodological elements to critically examine cultural practices and discourse

production in everyday life contexts. In particular, two socio-cultural field will be explored: the university institution; and the institutions of the free-time.

Prerequisites

A basic knowledge of sociological theory of interactions and methodology of social research, and fairly good skills in learning, writing and speaking.

Teaching methods

Lectures, exercises, group works, presentations of readings and research by students.

Assessment methods

Not attending students: oral examination

Attending students: written and oral presentation of a research paper based on the choice of a research object and on the application of both ethnographic and discourse analysis.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Testi Obbligatori

- Geertz C., Verso una teoria interpretativa della cultura, in Interpretazione di culture, Bologna, Il Mulino, 1987, pp. 39-71; e Il gioco profondo. Note sul combattimento di galli a Bali, in Interpretazione di culture, Bologna, Il Mulino, 1987, pp. 399-449.
- Fine, G.A, Kitchens. The culture of restaurant work, Berkeley, Univeristy of California Press, 1996, (Appendice etnografica, pp. 233-253)
- Mears, A., Very Important people. Status and beauty in the global party circuit, 20, Princeton, Princeton University Press (prologo pp. xi-xv e primo capitolo, pp. 1-39)
- Lindquist, J., A place to stand. Politics and persuasion in a working-class bar, 2002, Oxford, Oxford University Press (cap. 1-3, pp.3-56)
- Thanem, T, & Knights, D., Embodied research methods, 2019, London, Sage (cap. 4, 24 pp. 54-77)
- Emerson, Fretz, Shaw, 1995, Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes" University of Chicago Press (cap. 2 e 3).
- Burr, V. (2015) Social Costructionism, New-York: Routledge (cap. 4-5)
- Wodak and Mayer, Methods of critical discourse analysis as a method in social scientific research, (cap 1, 3 e 6).

Consigliato:

- M. Foucault, L’ordine del discorso, in Il discorso, la storia, la verità, Torino, Einaudi, 2001, pp.11-41

Sustainable Development Goals

REDUCED INEQUALITIES