UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Economic Anthropology and Development

2223-2-F0101R006

Course title

The times they’re changing: cultures, knowledge patterns and climate changes

Topics and course structure

The course introduces to the theoretical instruments of economic anthropology and anthropology of development, as study of intensive and planned change: space of cultural encounter of multiple ideas of space, of time, of belonging and of environment between development actors and “client communities”.
The economic dimensions in other cultural contexts will be analyzed in their embeddedness with local moral economy and cultural practices of local populations in these processes of globalization and incorporation in carbon economy.
Dynamics of change and of resource management (water, land, seeds, food) are at the core of contemporary reality and will be the focus of the program, with special attention through ethnographic perspective to some main issues: patterns of continuity and disjuncture with the colonial period, contradictions between cultural and environmental dimensions, the cultural reproduction, local patterns of decencies and strategies of autonomy.
A special focus will be devoted to climate changes and Anthropocene and the new and old roles of anthropology within accelerated environmental changes, in order to shed light on the following thematic landscapes: the challenge to the Western dichotomy between culture/nature and uncanny character of naturalism, the cultural patterns of denial, the symbolic investment of atmospheric relationships, and the new set of meanings of human and culture within the Athropocene.

Objectives

Main focus is to engender the ability in making connection among different models of socialization of envioronment.

The students will acquire the tools and the set of knowledge of the qualitative analysis in facing context of modernizations, generally realm of quantitative perspectives. The problematization of development ideologies, the critic to epistemological models rooted on a nature/culture dichotomy will be the fundament in understanding the dynamics of socio-cultural change.
The study of applied contexts and of resource management, the dynamics of manipulation, co-optation, selection of local populations in projects, the anthropological analysis of institutions are meant to assimilate tools in the work of the anthropologist in institutional contexts.
The students' capacity in studying will be activated through personal analysis of the texts of the program, written analysis, seminar settings and through a practical exercise of ethnographic analysis of urban ecological context. The virtual platform of the faculty will be used for literature exchange and interaction around the material of the course.

Methodologies

Lectures will make use of interactive group work on the study of case study, analysis of audi-visual presentations, use of Power Points.

Online and offline teaching materials

Didactic materila will comprehend the lecture experience indorr, outdoor and digital material

Programme and references for attending students

Temporary bibliography up to Semptember 2022 when it will be defined due to virtuous literature update for the students:

1-Olivier De Sardan, JP, 2008, Antropologia e sviluppo, Raffaello Cortina, Milano.
2-Van Aken, M., 2012, La diversità delle acque. Antropologia di un bene molto comune, Altravista, Lungavilla.
3-Van Aken, M., 2020, Campati per aria, Eleuthera, Milano, 2020
4-Collection of papers, also in english, on "Anthropology and environmental change", available from end of march 2023

Programme and references for non-attending students

Temporary bibliography up to Semptember 2022 when it will be defined due to virtuous literature update for the students:

1-Olivier De Sardan, JP, 2008, Antropologia e sviluppo, Raffaello Cortina, Milano.
2-Van Aken, M., 2012, La diversità delle acque. Antropologia di un bene molto comune, Altravista, Lungavilla.
3-Van Aken, M., 2020, Campati per aria, Eleuthera, Milano, 2020
4-Collection of papers, also in english, on "Anthropology and environmental change", available from end of March 2023

Assessment methods

The exams consist by an oral discussion and dialogue on the trajectory of the texts of the course, on the didactic experience (for attending students), focusing on the critical analysis of the literature proposed, the ability to use the theoretical notions and tools proposed, and to develop transversal connections
The exam will be a final discussion after the space of communication of lectures, The oral exam will therefore evaluate the participation of the students to the course through final questions that will allow understanding the acquisition of methodological tools in reading socio-cultural change in modernization contexts.
Attending students are considered those who participate to 75% of the lectures.

Programs of course will be valid for two academic years

Office hours

on mail appointment

Programme validity

Course programm hold two academic years

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

REDUCED INEQUALITIES | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | CLIMATE ACTION | LIFE ON LAND