UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Anthropology of China

2223-2-F0101R072

Course title

The theoretical and cultural foundations of Traditional Chinese Medicine

Topics and course structure

The course critically discusses the cultural and theoretical foundations of the forms of knowledge codified as Traditional Chinese Medicine. It uses a comparative perspective that crosses different medical systems, with particular reference to Western biomedicine.

Objectives

Through the study of traditional Chinese medicine, the course aims to provide some conceptual tools to understand the socio-cultural complexity of China, and, more generally, of the contemporary world. The course aims to promote and to develop the ability to articulate and apply different theoretical models.

Methodologies

The course uses diversified methodologies: lectures; class discussions; the use of slides, audiovisual documents provided by the teacher or by the students; participation of researchers presenting their works.

Online and offline teaching materials

Online and offline materials.

Programme and references for attending students

The lessons aim to provide the conceptual tools to understand Chinese medicine and, more generally, the medical systems and, hence, the complexity of the cultures and of their interrelations. They aim to assist students in analyzing the texts and in preparing the final written test.
The following are the main topics:
i. The invention of Traditional Chinese Medicine: institutionalization policies and standardization practices.
ii. The main concepts of Traditional Chinese Medicine: the use of classical texts.
iii. The theoretical and epistemological foundations of Chinese medical knowledge.
iv. The philosophy of change: Yi Jing.
v. Correlative thinking.

Programme and references for non-attending students

Program and references are the same as the ones provided to attending students

Assessment methods

Students are asked to produce a written paper that can cover both theoretical aspects or a case-study. The topic of the paper must be agreed with the teacher. The paper can be written in Italian or English and must not exceed 7,000 words. It must be delivered exclusively in .doc or .docx format and must follow the editorial rules provided (see "Editorial Rules"). The exam aims at verifying the knowledge acquired through the critical study of the texts and of the paper produced by the students. It will asses the acquisition of the specific disciplinary language and the ability to articulate and discuss the topics of the course.

Office hours

Before classes by appointment.

Programme validity

Two academic years

Course tutors and assistants

Dott. Daniele Buonomo

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION