UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Medical Anthropology

2223-1-F0101R013

Course title

Medical Anthropology

Topics and course structure

The course aims to shed light on the social, cultural, political and economic dimensions of the body, health, illness and systems of care, with particular reference to the geopolitical arrangements and socio-economic inequalities that exert their impact on the health of the planet's various populations. These issues will be examined throwghtout theoretical and ethnographic paths declined in three thematic cycles.

COMMON SECTION

1. *Introduction to medical anthropology:* presentation of the main paradigms and theoretical orientations; narrative approach (classical concepts of illness, sickness, disease, explanatory models); critical medical anthropology (social suffering, political violence and health inequalities from a global health perspective); the contribution of medical anthropology and ethnopsychiatry in understanding mental health.

OPTIONAL SECTION

2)*Applied medical anthropology:* the role of medical anthropology in social welfare and care services, relations with health institutions, the professional and theoretical contribution of anthropology in the development of public health and prevention policies in national, international and transnational contexts.

3)*From medical anthropology to the anthropology of care:* the contributions of medical anthropology in understanding demographic transformations and global aging.

At the end of the optional section, students will be present to the whole class an individual or group work about

specific topics of each thematic cycle. The organization of the groups, topics and dates will be agreed during the first lesson.

Objectives

By means of this teaching, with constant and participative attendance of the lectures and the Laboratory connected to the course, we intend to PROMOTE the following learning, in terms of
Knowledge and understanding
The teaching of medical anthropology aims to provide students with in-depth knowledge and critical analysis skills on the main topics of scientific interest in the discipline, integrating them in a historical perspective and placing them in the contemporary theoretical and methodological debate. At the end of the course, students are therefore expected to have understood methodological and applicative aspects of the anthropological approach to the themes of health, illness and cure.
Ability to relate different knowledge and models
By the end of the course, students are expected to have acquired critical competence in relation to the different theoretical perspectives that have explored the cultural, sociological and political implications of the body and illness;
Ability to apply knowledge and models.
At the end of the course, students are expected to have developed critical skills and the ability to independently orient themselves among the themes and topics addressed, also exploring the possibility of formulating novel and original research interests in a personal way.

Methodologies

Lectures; seminar meetings; viewing, analysis and discussion of multimedia and documentary materials; cooperative learning sessions; handouts.

Online and offline teaching materials

As the course progresses, bibliographic references and supplementary teaching materials will be progressively uploaded onto the e-learning platform to enable students to carry out group activities and further investigate any topics of personal interest. In addition, this will enable non-attending students to regularly follow the progress of the lectures and to find concepts and materials useful for independent examination preparation.

Programme and references for attending students

Attending students will have to prepare on three texts to be chosen according to the following methods.

*COMMON SECTION - Two chosen texts (at least one in English) for the first thematic cycle:
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• Hans BAER, Merrill SINGER, 2003, Medical Anthropology and the World System, Westport (Connecticut) – London, Praeger.
• 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.
• Donatella COZZI, 2012, Le parole dell'antropologia medica, Perugia, Morlacchi Editore.
• 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.
• 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, 2019, Le vite ineguali. Quanto vale un essere umano, trad. Lorenzo ALUNNI, Milano, Feltrinelli [Didier FASSIN, 2018, Life. A Critical User's Manual, Cambridge, Polity Press].
• 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].
• 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, edited by. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.
• B. 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.
• KLEINMAN, ed., 1988, The illness narratives. Suffering, healing and the human condition, New York, Basic Book.
• A. KLEINMAN, V. DAS, M. LOCK, 1997, eds., Social Suffering, Berkeley, University of California Press.
• M. LOCK, V. K. 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.
• Ivo QUARANTA, 2006, Antropologia Medica. I testi fondamentali, Milano, Raffaello Cortina.
• Carolyn SARGENT, Thomas M. JOHNSON, 1996, eds., Medical anthropology: Contemporary theory and method, Westport, CT, Praeger.
• 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.
• Merrill SINGER, Hans BEAR, 1995, Critical Medical Anthropology, New York, Rootledge.
• Allan YOUNG, 1995, The Harmony of Illusion. Inventing Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, Princeton, Princeton University Press.

*OPTIONAL SECTION - One chosen text for the second or fourth thematic cycle.

**** NB: Those who worked on the third cycle in class will have to choose a text from the list of the fourth cycle, those who worked on the fourth cycle in class will have to choose a text from the list of the third cycle.

*SECOND THEMATIC CYCLE:

• Peter BROWN, 1998, Understanding and Applying Medical Anthropology, Mayfield, Mountain View.
• Margaret LOCK, 2001, Twice Dead: Organ Transplants and the Reinvention of Death, University of California Press.
• Dominic BOYER, George E. Marcus, eds., 2021, Collaborative Anthropology Today: A Collection of Exceptions,

New York, Cornell University Press.
• Angela Maria CALLARI, 2017, Verso un’antropologia del cancro, Roma, Armando Editore.
• Miriam CASTALDO, Maria Concetta SEGNERI, a cura di, 2022, Antropologhe in corsia. La professione dell’antropologo medico nella sanità pubblica italiana, Salerno, Licosia, [Contaminazioni, coll. Diretta da ANPIA].
• Antonino COLAJANNI, Leonardo PIASERE, Bruno RICCIO, Sabrina TOSI CAMBINI, Alessandro SIMONICCA, Simonicca, Roberta BONETTI, Giovanni PIZZA R, Ivo QUARANTA, Antonio Luigi PALMISANO, a cura di, 2014, Antropologia applicata, Lecce, Pensa.
• Ivo QUARANTA, Massimiliano MINELLI, Sylvie FORTIN, eds., 2018, Assemblages, Transformations, and the Politics of Care, Bologna, Bononia University Press.
• Giovanni PIZZA, Andrea RAVENDA, 2016, a cura di, Esperienza dell’attesa e retoriche del tempo. L’impegno dell’antropologia nel campo sanitario, v.2, Società italiana di Antropologia Applicata (SIAA), [Online]:https://riviste-clueb.online/index.php/anpub/issue/view/2.
• Ivan SEVERI, Federica TANABUSI, I metodi puri impazziscono. Strumenti dell’antropologia e pratiche dell’etnografia al lavoro, Licosia, Contaminazioni, Ogliastro Cilento (SA), 2019, pp. 37-60.

*THIRD THEMATIC CYCLE:
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• 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

Instead of the class work, non-attending students will have to study four chosen texts from each bibliographic lists (without distinction between common and optional sections).

*Two chosen texts for the first thematic cycle:
*

- Hans BAER, Merrill SINGER, 2003, Medical Anthropology and the World System, Westport (Connecticut) – London, Praeger.
  • 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.
  • Peter BROWN, 1998, Understanding and Applying Medical Anthropology, Mayfield, Mountain View.
  • 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.
  • Donatella COZZI, 2012, Le parole dell'antropologia medica, Perugia, Morlacchi Editore.

• 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.
• 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, 2019, Le vite ineguali. Quanto vale un essere umano, trad. Lorenzo ALUNNI, Milano, Feltrinelli [Didier FASSIN, 2018, Life. A Critical User's Manual, Cambridge, Polity Press].
• 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].
• Margaret LOCK, 2001, Twice Dead: Organ Transplants and the Reinvention of Death, University of California Press.
• 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, edited by. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.
• B. 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.
• KLEINMAN, ed., 1988, The illness narratives. Suffering, healing and the human condition, New York, Basic Book.
• A. KLEINMAN, V. DAS, M. LOCK, 1997, eds., Social Suffering, Berkeley, University of California Press.
• M. LOCK, V. K. 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.
• Ivo QUARANTA, 2006, Antropologia Medica. I testi fondamentali, Milano, Raffaello Cortina.
• Carolyn SARGENT, Thomas M. JOHNSON, 1996, eds., Medical anthropology: Contemporary theory and method, Westport, CT, Praeger.
• 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.
• Merrill SINGER, Hans BEAR, 1995, Critical Medical Anthropology, New York, Rootledge.
• Allan YOUNG, 1995, The Harmony of Illusion. Inventing Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, Princeton, Princeton University Press.

*One chosen text for the second thematic cycle:
*

- Peter BROWN, 1998, Understanding and Applying Medical Anthropology, Mayfield, Mountain View.
• Margaret LOCK, 2001, Twice Dead: Organ Transplants and the Reinvention of Death, University of California Press.
• Dominic BOYER, George E. Marcus, eds., 2021, Collaborative Anthropology Today: A Collection of Exceptions, New York, Cornell University Press.
• Angela Maria CALLARI, 2017, Verso un'antropologia del cancro, Roma, Armando Editore.
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• Ivo QUARANTA, Massimiliano MINELLI, Sylvie FORTIN, eds., 2018, Assemblages, Transformations, and

the Politics of Care, Bologna, Bononia University Press.
• Giovanni PIZZA, Andrea RAVENDA, 2016, a cura di, Esperienza dell'attesa e retoriche del tempo. L'impegno dell'antropologia nel campo sanitario, v.2, Società italiana di Antropologia Applicata (SIAA), [Online]: https://riviste-clueb.online/index.php/anpub/issue/view/2.
• Ivan SEVERI, Federica TANABUSI, I metodi puri impazziscono. Strumenti dell'antropologia e pratiche dell'etnografia al lavoro, Licosia, Contaminazioni, Ogliastro Cilento (SA), 2019, pp. 37-60.

*One chosen text for the third thematic cycle:
*
• 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

Type of test
Oral test on the course content and texts.
Evaluation criteria
The examination consists of an oral test aimed at verifying the knowledge acquired through the critical study of the texts included in the examination programme and the work carried out in the classroom (the latter only for those attending). The acquisition of the specific disciplinary language and the ability to make appropriate connections between the course topics will also be assessed.

Office hours

Wednesday from 15.00 to 16.00 by previous appointment with the teacher via e-mail (gloria.frisone@unimib.it). Reception requests are accepted both in person and remotely
(teacher's room: https://unimib.webex.com/meet/gloria.frisone).

Programme validity

The programmes are valid for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING