UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Cultural Anthropology - M-Z

2324-2-E1901R142-MZ

Course title

Cultural Anthropology M-Z

Topics and course structure

The course is an introduction to cultural anthropology that today is a critical knowledge aimed at understanding and analyzing cultural diversity and the processes of identities construction in the contemporary world.

"Culture" is a notion that common sense often invests with stereotypes or reduces to simple culturalism. Anthropology, born from the meeting with other visions of life and human being in distant lands, is an important tool for understanding how cultural diversity is constructed and what are the languages, practices and tools that establish this diversity.

During the course, special attention will be devoted to ethnographic method as anthropological instrument apt to understand cultural alterity.

Objectives

The course aims to provide students with solid knowledge in cultural anthropology, presenting some notion of discipline such as society, ethnicity, religion, rite, power, gender, etc. The course also intends to present the methodological issues of anthropological approach such as field research, the "immersion" in another world of life, decentralization of the perspective etc. In this sense, the discipline reveals its educational dimension exploring the phenomena of acculturation and the encounter with the "other", but also in the clash and friction or in the fascination that diversity can arouse.

The lessons and the readings provide the students with the tools necessary for the understanding of the dynamics of identity and cultural differences. The goal is to develop an attitude to comparison and critical approach to multiplicity and cultural realities. The students will gain useful knowledge for critical reflection on the complexity of the contemporary world.

Methodologies

Lectures and class discussions. The use of various teaching materials, including eventual audio-visual materials, aims at encouraging learning skills and critical skills in common discussions.

Attendace and active participation are recommended.The exam can be performed in English by foreign/Erasmus students.

Online and offline teaching materials

Teaching materials for further study of the topics discussed in class will be made available on the course page.

Programme and references

Erasmus students can define an English language programme together with the professor. Please, contact Prof. Manuela Tassan by email.

Assessment methods

WRITTEN EXAMINATION WITH OPTIONAL ORAL EXAMINATION

The examination consists of a two-hour written test comprising four open questions about all the texts. If the evaluation of the written test is between 18/30 and 30/30, the student may request a supplementary oral examination (optional).

The student is automatically notified of the publication of the results of the written exam when the written exam register is closed by an e-mail sent to the University e-mail address. The finale score can be consulted on the student's personal page.

When the results of the written paper are published, the student has three days to choose one of the following options:

a) the student can accept the outcome of the written paper: the test is concluded and the grade and CFUs are recorded in the student's career with telematic verbalization at the end of the publication period;

b) the student may indicate that he/she wishes to take an oral integration, on the day and at the time set by the teacher. The student may proceed with enrolment up to the day before the oral call. In this case, if the student does not attend the oral examination, or does not enrol, he will be "withdrawn". If a student does attend, he will be

informed verbally of the result of the test.

In the event that the student does not express any of the above options within the timeframe, the result of the written test is considered accepted and the score will be recorded at the end of the publication period.

Evaluation criteria

Using appropriate questions, the lecturer will test the soundness of the skills acquired, the students' ability to critically read texts and to construct an effective argumentative paper.

Students are asked to study in a way that is not merely notional, focused on the mnemonic acquisition of single concepts, but capable of grasping the evolution of anthropological debates on certain key issues of the discipline. In this regard, the study of the textbook (Tassan) is therefore essential and represents the prerequisite for understanding the themes addressed in the other in-depth texts.

Please note: the three in-depth texts are always connected in some way to the themes of the textbook and the ability to make appropriate connections will be assessed positively.

The final assessment is never the result of a mathematical tally of marks awarded to a single question, but takes into account the paper as a whole.

Students are encouraged to read the questions carefully and construct a mental outline of the overall argument to be made in each question. The individual answers should in fact show the ability to construct an argumentative *path* on the proposed questions. The answers should show the specificity of the anthropological gaze and language.

NB **Students with DSA who intend to use compensatory tools** are requested to send **at least ten days before the exam** their P.Uo.I. and any concept maps they intend to use in the exam. Simple summaries of texts will not be accepted.

Office hours

By e-mail appointment.

Programme validity

The programs are valid for **two academic years**. Thus, the 2023-2024 program is valid from the summer session (June, July and September) of 2024 until the winter session (January and February) of 2026.

The previous year's program (2022-2023) is valid until February 2025.

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS