UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Cultural Anthropology - A-L

2324-2-E1901R142-AL

Course title

Cultural Anthropology

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.

Anthropology, born from the meeting with other visions of life and human being i, is an important tool for understanding how cultural diversity is constructed and what are the languages, practices and tools that establish this diversity.
"Culture" is a notion that common sense often invests with stereotypes or reduces to simple culturalism. 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 some crucial steps of the history of anthropology and the methodological issues of its 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, slides and audio-visual materials, class discussions. The use of various teaching materials, including 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

other materials (video and articles) will loaded on the elearning page

Programme and references

- Fabietti U. 2023, Elementi di antropologia culturale, Mondadori (cosa studiare: Parti 1, 5, 7, 9 tutto Parte 2, capitoli 1
  Parte 3, capitoli 1 e 3
  Parte 4, capitoli 2 e 3
  Parte 6, capitoli 1 e 3
  Particolare attenzione va posta alle schede contenute nel libro

2 - King C., 2020 La riscoperta dell'umanità. Come un gruppo di antropologi ribelli reinventò le idee di razza, sesso e genere nel XX secolo, Einaudi

3 – one of the following books:

a) Brivio, A., Mattalucci, C. 2022, La materia per pensare la morte, edizioni Libreria Cortina

b) Bourgois P., Shonberg J., 2019, Reietti e fuorilegge. Antropologia della violenza nella metropoli americana, Derive e approdi

c) Ciabarri L., 2020, L'imbroglio mediterraneo. Le migrazioni via mare e le politiche della frontiera, Edizioni Cortina

d) Ghosh A., 2022, La maledizione della noce moscata. Parabole per un pianeta in crisi, Beri Pozza

e) Giuffre M., Turci M., 2021, Traiettorie dello spazio. Luoghi, frizioni, relazioni, Meltemi

f) Segato R.L., 2023, La guerra contro le donne, Tamu edizioni

g) Brivio A., 2023, Serpenti, sirene e sacerdotesse. Antropologia dei mondi acquatici in Africa occidentale, Viella

editore

4 - one of the following books:

1. Middlesex , Jeffrey Eugenides
2. Americanah, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
3. Exit West, Mohsin Hamid

Assessment methods

ORAL EXAMINATION
The exam consistes of two parts, both oral. The first one concernes the Manual. Passing this first step is essential to access to the second part of the exam, during which the program will be discussed

Evaluation criteria
The teacher will test the notions acquired and the capacity of a critical understanding of the program. The student will have to reach at least 18/30 in the first part in order to pass to the secon part exam.

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.

Office hours

appointment by mail

Programme validity

Two academic yers. This means that this programme is valid from the summer session (June, July, and September) of 2024 until the winter session (January and February) of 2026.

Programme 2022-2023 is valid until February 2025.

Programme 2021-2022 is valid until February 2024.

Course tutors and assistants

Chiara Calzana

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | CLIMATE ACTION