SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Antropologia Storica

2324-2-F0101R065

Course title

Historical anthropology

Topics and course structure

Historical anthropology is a field of study across anthropology and history born out of the awareness that societies can only be understood if they are analysed historically. Different societies have different conceptions of time and different histories. In order to study social life in a diachronic perspective, historical anthropology combines archival research, ethnography, oral history, material traces, etc.
The course track the emergence of historical anthropology, within different academic traditions. It than presents an outline of the main discipline methodologies and research arena.
Part of the classes are seminar-based. We analyse and discuss some historical-anthropological essays, reflecting on the sources they are built upon: on sources' context of production and preservation, on their materiality and their possible uses.

Objectives

This course, with constant class participation, aims to promote:

- an awareness and understanding of the main theoretical issues in historical anthropology
- the ability to apply anthropological-historical analysis to different cultural settings and to relate different understanding of history to each other
- the ability to apply the knowledge and models of historical anthropology to specific situations and contexts.

Methodologies

Lectures

Reading, analysis and discussion of selected texts

Online and offline teaching materials

Teaching materials will be available from March.

Programme and references

The course examines the use and value of historical documents in anthropological research. We will explore the nature of different documentary sources, oral history and oral tradition. We will focus on the skills needed to evaluate and use of documentary and oral sources to approach the past ethnographically.

A) One book to be chosen from:
P. Viazzo, Introduzione all'antropologia storica, Roma-Bari, Laterza, 2000.
A. Coello de la Rosa & J. L. Mateo Dieste, In Praise of Historical Anthropology. Perspectives, Methods and Applications to the Study of Power and Colonialism, New York, Routledge, 2020.

B) 6 selected essays

C) Two books to choose from:
M. Boch. Apologia della storia, Einaudi, Torino, 2009.
A. Brivio, Donne, emancipazione e marginalità. Antropologia della schiavitù e della dipendenza in Ghana, Meltemi, Milano, 2019 (tranne che per gli studenti e le studentesse che portano questo testo per l'esame di Antropologia politica).
J. & J. Comaroff, Ethnography And The Historical Imagination, Routledge, London, 1992.
C. Ginzburg, Il formaggio e i vermi, Adelphi, Milano, 2019.
C. Mattalucci, Un'etnografia per la conversione. I missionari d'Africa e l'evangelizzazione del Buhaya (Tanzania nord-occidentale), CLUEB, Bologna, 2020.
M. Sahlins, Isole di storia. Società e mito nei mari del Sud, Raffaello Cortina, Milano 2017.
A. L. Stoler, Along the Archival Grain. Epistemic Anxieties and Colonial Common Sense, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2010.

Assessment methods

Attendant students will be based on the following:
A) Completion of the reading assigned during the course and participation in class discussions.
B) Oral exam. The evaluation will be based on the understanding of the texts books; the presentation of contents in a clear and synthetic way; the ability to critically analyse and re-elaborate, making connections between assigned texts.

For students who will not attend lectures and carry out the activities proposed during the course, grade will be based on final oral exam only.

Please, contact the course instructor for further advice on the course program.

Office hours

On appointment by e-mail: claudia.mattalucci@unimib.it

Programme validity

Programme validity is two academic years

Course tutors and assistants

Dott.ssa Chiara Calzana: c.calzana@campus.unimib.it

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION