UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Culture e Società del Mondo Islamico

2324-2-F0101R071

Course title

Cultures and societies of the Middle East: moving environments

Topics and course structure

The trajectory of the course will face the multiplicity and complexity of the areal study of the Middle East, following the path of the researches of Ugo Fabietti that opened this field of studies in Italy in relation to international debate, departing from a deconstruction and the “invention” of the Middle East. We will face a multiplicity of “Middle Easts”: the Mediterranean connections of this field of research highlighted by the fluxes of population, the heterogenous contemporary processes as modernization process, the conflicts around the fossil culture, and the intermingling between social change and environmental dynamics; in short, Middle Easts in the Anthropocene.
There will be two main axes: first, the relevance of the processes of mobility and migration from and within middle eastern areas in redefining the role of locality; secondly, the patterns of socialization of the environment, the role of climate and environmental changes and the historical entanglement between environmental and cultural dynamics. The Palestinian case will be in focus, as a laboratory of techniques of governamentality of territory and populations, exported worldwide, side by side with patterns of resistance and search for autonomy.

Objectives

Through active participation in presence, the course will enhance the capacity to connect historical categories of middle eastern studies as “ethnicity”, “kinship”, “honour”, “aridity”, “desert” with their contemporary articulation and in relation with the environmental changes and the patterns of resources management. This will be funded on the centrality of ethnographic analysis of case studies and the understanding of main theoretical changes.
The study of the multiple “laboratories of modernity” in the Middle East, from which derive part of the cultural and

social fluxes in Italy and Europe, will allow to deconstruct cultural stereotypes that reproduce in contemporary crisis -humanitarian, economic, environmental- and to acquire critical knowledge of the main dynamicity of middle eastern contexts. The entanglement between migration and environmental dynamics will allow to acquire theoretical tools in understanding their intermingling and interdependence.

Methodologies

Frontal lecture will be mainly circular settings, with main focus on ethnographic case studies, seminar participation in group work, analysis of audio-video production. Priority will be given to the common space of communication and debate.

Online and offline teaching materials

Power Points will be uploaded and eventual forum of discussion and coordination on specific issues of analysis.

Programme and references

-Fabietti Ugo, Medio Oriente. Uno sguardo antropologico, Raffaello Cortina, 2016, Milano

-Lila Abu Lughoud, Sentimenti velati. Onore e poesia in una società beduina, Rosenberg & Sellier, 2022

-Due dispense del corso con saggi etnografici, scaricabili da metà Ottobre 23 sulla pagina del corso:
1-Palestina Antrop-oscena
2-Medi orienti in movimento

Assessment methods

The exam consist of an oral exam in a dialogical setting on the trajectory of the texts, of the ethnographic cases and of theoretical and cultural analysis in relation to the didactic experiences of the course (for attended students). The capacity to connect the different theoretical and areal tools and the ability to make critical connections will be valorized.

Office hours

mail appointment

Programme validity

two years

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

CLIMATE ACTION