UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Antropologia Medica

2324-1-F0101R013

Course title

Medical Anthropology

Topics and course structure

In this course, students will develop knowledge and critical understanding of social, cultural, political and economical dimensions concerning health and body issues. In what ways are health and illness matters of interpretation and belief in different societies? How do they involve and shape social interactions and social organization among individuals and groups? How do they reflect and influence political and economic relations? To answer such questions, this course focuses on ethnographic approaches on issues regarding health and illness in different contexts worldwide.
One theme that ties together the diverse topics of the course is the production of anthropological knowledge about health, suffering, and medicine. Particular attention will be dedicated to the anthropological analysis of global inequalities linked to the field of health, in order to better understand some of the most complex contemporary contexts and issues across different ethnographic cases.

In the final part of the course, Dr. Chiara Moretti will give an in-depth discussion, in a cycle of five lectures, on the following three topics: pain and the anthropology of pain; sex/gender and biomedicine; the training of physicians.

Objectives

Through the analysis and comparison of ethnographic cases from various settings, students will reach a deeper understanding of medicine and health as systems of thought and practice, as well as exploring the possible ways to study the body as a bio-historical product. Students will learn how to consider health issues as individual forms of

embodiment of broader social and historical processes within situated moral worlds.

Methodologies

In the first part of the course, teaching will be based mainly on introductory lectures on medical anthropology. In the second part, articles and chapters focusing on specific topics of the course will be discussed in form of seminar. In the third and final part of the course, Dr. Chiara Moretti will give five lectures on the themes of 1) pain and the anthropology of pain; 2) sex/gender and biomedicine; 3) the training of physicians.

Online and offline teaching materials

Programme and references

The bibliography includes two books, with one to be chosen by the student from these two:
1a) A Reader in Medical Anthropology. Theoretical Trajectories, Emergent Realities, edited by Byron J. Good, Michael M.J. Fischer, Sarah S. Willen, e Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.
1b) A Companion to Medical Anthropology, edited by Merril Singer and Pamela I. Erickson. Wiley-Blackwell, 2011 .

Plus, for all students (attending and nonattending), the following book:
2) Didier Fassin, The Worlds of Public Health: Anthropological Excursions. Polity, 2023.

Assessment methods

Oral exam. Attending and nonattending students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the texts indicated in the "Programme and references" section of the syllabus and to be able to draw thematic and critical connections between the different topics discussed in the course.

Office hours

Please contact the teacher: lorenzo.alunni@unimib.it

Programme validity

Two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | REDUCED INEQUALITIES