UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Etnografia

2324-2-F0101R051-ETNO

Course title

Ethnography Practicum

Topics and course structure

The "Ethnography Practicum" offers a practical activity that directly involves students, exposing them to the use of tools and methods in fieldwork, as well as to the actual ethnographic experience.

The main and crucial question that the Practicum aims to address practically is: "**What does an anthropologist do concretely in the field?**" However, it also seeks to provide concrete guidance in answering a series of subsequent but equally important questions, such as:

- How is ethnographic research organized?
- How are research questions formulated?
- How do we prepare for our arrival in the field?
- How and what do we observe?
- How is an interview structured?
- What ethical and professional issues should we be aware of before undertaking research?
- How do we select participants to involve?
- How do we formally or informally inform them about the research objectives and the use of the information they provide?
- How are the collected/produced data treated and communicated?
- How has the ethnographic method evolved over time?
- What are the specificities of the anthropological use of ethnography compared to its practice in other disciplines?

The critical discussion of these topics will be constantly accompanied by practical exercises that will help participants become familiar with the available tools. A facilitated discussion among all participants, mediated by the instructor, will follow the exercises and help understand and reflect upon the role of the ethnographer in the field.

Students will have the opportunity to propose a topic of their interest (ideally, the topic they plan to work on for their thesis) to focus on during the course and shape the exercises accordingly.

If technically feasible, a field trip will be organized where students and the instructor will collectively engage in fieldwork activities on a specific topic within the anthropology of food.

The presence of guest anthropologists is also expected, who will share their research experiences, focusing on practical aspects, challenges, and resources encountered in their fieldwork approach, and answering questions and doubts from students.

Note: **Students unable to acquire the 4 CFU (academic credits) through active participation in at least 75% of the 40 scheduled hours of the Practicum (or through other channels provided by the degree program) can contact the responsible instructor and the assistant-instructor of the Practicum BEFORE THE START of the Practicum to report their specific situation. The modes for acquiring the 4 CFU by exempted students will be explained during the first meeting of the Practicum**.

Objectives

The Ethnography Practicum aims to provide students with:

- knowledge of the main methods for collecting and producing data in the field;
- the skills to design an ethnographic research, starting from the preliminary stages of identifying a general theme, selecting a case study, formulating research questions, selecting participants, and choosing the most appropriate methods to address the study;
- the skills to organize, contextualize, analyze, and interpret the collected and/or produced ethnographic data in light of relevant literature.

Methodologies

The Practicum requires the **direct involvement and active participation** of the students who will concretely contribute to this didactic-practical experience. The intention is to create an environment where *students can express* themselves without fear of judgment. **Hands-on-learning** methods will be preferred, with group or individual exercises, collective discussions mediated by the instructor and collaborative learning methods.
The same didactic method will be followed in the case of the presence of expert guests.

Online and offline teaching materials

Specific teaching materials will be indicated to students during the Practicum meetings.

Programme and references

A specific bibliography will be indicated during the Practicum meetings, accorging to the topics that will be addressed and the specific interests of the students. There is no mandatory bibliography.

Assessment methods

CFUs recognition is in relation to **active participation** and the **carrying out of the exercises and activities proposed** by the instructor.

The modes for acquiring the 4 CFU by ***exempted*** students will be explained during the first meeting of the Practicum.

Office hours

The instructor will receive by **appointment**. Please, reach out by email.

Programme validity

The programs are valid for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | REDUCED INEQUALITIES