



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Eating Disorders: An Ethnographic Approach

2425-2-I0101D144

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#### Aims

Provide basic training on the phenomenon of eating disorders in the multiplicity of its facets.

To offer a targeted knowledge on the therapeutic responses prepared by the Health System to counteract its spread.

Highlight the heuristic potential of the anthropological-medical approach and clinical ethnography.

#### Contents

Eating disorders (DCA) are a real social emergency. Their diffusion in Western countries to advanced capitalism questions the articulation between the food system, the nutrition clinic, representations of corporeity and current forms of psychic distress. In turn, the search for an adequate therapeutic response to their resolution brings to light the Cartesian foundation of the Western medical system, trying to overcome its limits, both clinical and political

#### Detailed program

The medical-psychiatric approach (nosographic classification and main types).

Socio-material significance of human nutrition, characteristics of the western food system, hegemonic models of corporeity.

The gender issue: a female pathology?

The evolution of care models: from single disciplinary to "integrated multidisciplinary".

DCA and biopolitics of health: the situation of care services in Italy.

Clinical ethnography of the experiences of illness and places of treatment.

## **Prerequisites**

Enrolling in the 2nd-3rd year of the Bachelor's Degree in Nursing

## **Teaching form**

Face-to-face teaching – frontal lectures; group works; guided discussions; testimonies.

## **Textbook and teaching resource**

Cuzzolaro, M. (2014), *Anoressie e bulimie*. Il Mulino, Bologna.

Gordon, R., *Anoressia e bulimia. Anatomia di un'epidemia sociale*. Tr. it. Raffaello Cortina, Milano 1991.

Eli, K., Warin, M. (2018) (eds.), "Anthropological perspectives on eating disorders: Deciphering cultural logics" [Special Issue]. In, *Transcultural Psychiatry*, 55 (4).

Gremillion, H. (2003), *Feeding Anorexia: Gender and Power at a Treatment Center*. Duke University Press USA.

Lester, R.J. (2019), *Famished. Eating Disorders and Failed Care in America*. University of California Press.

Vandereycken W., Van Deth R., *Dalle sante ascetiche alle ragazze anoressiche*, Raffaello Cortina, Milano 1995.

## **Semester**

Second semester

## **Assessment method**

Frequency

## **Office hours**

By appointment

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

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