UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Antropologia Culturale - M-Z

2425-2-E1901R142-MZ

Course title

Cultural Anthropology M-Z

Topics and course structure

The course is an introduction to cultural anthropology that today is a critical knowledge aimed at understanding and analyzing cultural diversity and the processes of identities construction in the contemporary world.

"Culture" is a notion that common sense often invests with stereotypes or reduces to simple culturalism. Anthropology, born from the meeting with other visions of life and human being in distant lands, is an important tool for understanding how cultural diversity is constructed and what are the languages, practices and tools that establish this diversity.

During the course, special attention will be devoted to ethnographic method as anthropological instrument apt to understand cultural alterity.

Objectives

The course aims to provide students with solid knowledge in cultural anthropology, presenting some notion of discipline such as society, ethnicity, religion, rite, power, gender, etc. The course also intends to present the methodological issues of anthropological approach such as field research, the "immersion" in another world of life, decentralization of the perspective etc. In this sense, the discipline reveals its educational dimension exploring the phenomena of acculturation and the encounter with the "other", but also in the clash and friction or in the fascination that diversity can arouse.

The lessons and the readings provide the students with the tools necessary for the understanding of the dynamics of identity and cultural differences. The goal is to develop an attitude to comparison and critical approach to multiplicity and cultural realities. The students will gain useful knowledge for critical reflection on the complexity of the contemporary world.

Methodologies

26 lessons of the teaching, amounting to 52 lecture hours, will be divided into **two parts**:

- a part of **Deliverable Didactics (DE)** in which the professor will illustrate some of the course content.
- a part of **Interactive Didactics (DI)** in which the professor will propose moments of discussion among students on the concepts just presented, sometimes suggesting activities to be carried out individually.
  The order of these two didactic modes within the single lesson may sometimes be reversed: first the DI to solicit discussion on some common sense categories, then the analysis of these same concepts through the specific theoretical contribution of the discipline (DE).

2 lessons of the teaching, amounting to 4 hours of lecture, will instead be exclusively devoted to **Interactive Didactics (DI)**: activities will be proposed to be carried out individually or in groups to experiment with the ethnographic method, with a special focus on observation.

Attendance and active participation are recommended.

Online and offline teaching materials

Teaching materials for further study of the topics discussed in class will be made available on the course page.

Programme and references

Although this course is held in Italian, for Erasmus students, course material can also be available in English, and students can take the exam in English if they wish to do so.

Assessment methods

WRITTEN EXAM

The exam will consist of a **two-hour written test consisting of four open-ended questions**.

The questions will cover **all of the texts in the syllabus**.

The **publication of the results of the writing** is automatically communicated to the student via email

From the time the writing outcomes are published, **the student has three days** from the publication of the writing outcome to accept or reject the writing outcome.

Evaluation criteria

With appropriate questions, the teacher will test the soundness of the skills acquired, the students' ability to critically read texts and construct an effective argumentative paper.

Students are asked for a study that is not merely notional, focused on the mnemonic acquisition of single concepts, but capable of grasping the evolution of anthropological debates on some key-issues of the discipline. **In this regard, the study of the textbook (Tassan) is therefore essential and is the necessary prerequisite for understanding the themes addressed in the other in-depth texts.**

Please note: the three in-depth texts are always, in some way, connected to the themes of the textbook. The ability to make explicit appropriate connections between the textbook and the in-depth texts between will be assessed positively.

The **final assessment** is never the outcome of a mathematical tally of the score given to a single question, but takes into account the paper as a whole.

Students are encouraged to read the questions carefully and construct an outline of the overall argument to be made in each question. Indeed, individual answers should show the ability to construct an effective argumentative *path*. Answers should also return the specificity of the anthropological gaze and language.

NB Students with DSA who intend to make use of compensatory tools** are requested to send **At LEAST TEN DAYS before the exam** their **P.Uo.I.** and any **conceptual maps** they intend to use in the exam. Simple summaries of the texts will not be accepted.

Office hours

By e-mail appointment.

Programme validity

The programs are valid for **two academic years**. Thus, the 2023-2024 program is valid from the summer session (June, July and September) of 2024 until the winter session (January and February) of 2027.

The previous year's program (2023-2024) is valid until February 2026.

Course tutors and assistants

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Sustainable Development Goals

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