UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Anthropology of China

2425-2-F0101R072

Course title

The theoretical and epistemological foundations of Traditional Chinese Medicine

Topics and course structure

The course critically discusses the epistemological and theoretical foundations of the forms of knowledge codified as Traditional Chinese Medicine. It uses a comparative perspective that crosses different medical systems, with particular reference to Western medicine

Objectives

Through the study of traditional Chinese medicine, the course aims to provide some conceptual tools to understand the socio-cultural complexity of the People's Republic of China, and, more generally, of the contemporary world. The course aims to promote and develop the ability to articulate and apply different theoretical models.

Methodologies

The course uses diversified methodologies: lectures; class discussions; the use of slides, audiovisual documents provided by the teacher or by the students; participation of researchers presenting their works.
Teaching activities consist of EROGATIVE LESSONS in PRESENCE (interaction is solicited constantly and continuously).

Online and offline teaching materials

Materials used in lectures (slides, videos, etc.) will be made available to students on the e-learning page.

Programme and references

The lessons aim to provide the conceptual tools to understand Chinese medicine and, more generally, the medical systems and, hence, the complexity of the cultures and of their interrelations. They aim to assist students in analyzing the texts and in preparing the final written test.
The following are the main topics:
The invention of Traditional Chinese Medicine: institutionalization policies and standardization practices.
The main concepts of Traditional Chinese Medicine: the use of classical texts.
The theoretical and epistemological foundations of Chinese medical knowledge.
The philosophy of change: Yi Jing.
Correlative thinking.

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

ORAL EXAMINATION TO DISCUSS THE WRITTEN PAPER
Students are required to produce a written paper which may concern both general theoretical aspects and the study of a particular case. The topic must deal with Chinese philosophy, medicine or, more generally, Chinese culture. It is a training exercise related to the elaboration of a scientific text (which includes the choice of the research object, the bibliographic research and the dialogue with scientific literature, the articulation of concepts and writing). The topic of the paper must be proposed to the teacher and accepted by him. The thesis may be written in Italian or English and must not exceed 7,000 words. It must be delivered exclusively in .doc or .docx format and must follow the editorial rules established for the MA thesis. The paper must be sent to the teacher no later than one week before the exam date.
The exam intends to verify the knowledge acquired through the elaboration of the written text, the acquisition of the specific disciplinary language and the ability to articulate and critically discuss the selected topics.

Office hours

Before classes by appointment.

Programme validity

Two academic years

Course tutors and assistants

Dott. Daniele Buonomo

Sustainable Development Goals

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS