UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Medical Anthropology

2425-1-F0101R013

Course title

Medical Anthropology

Topics and course structure

In this course, students will develop knowledge and critical understanding of social, cultural, political and economic dimensions concerning health and body issues. In what ways are health and illness matter 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.

Objectives

Through this course, we intend to PROMOTE the following objectives:

*Develop knowledge and critical understanding of medical systems as systems of thought and practice. Students will become familiar with categories, theoretical perspectives and languages developed within Medical anthropology.

*Develop abilities to relate different knowledge and models related to anthropological and ethnographic perspectives on the body in its dimension as a bio-historical product.

*Develop abilities to apply knowledge and models relating to individual forms of embodiment of historical and social processes in relation to situated moral worlds . Students will be able to exercise competence in the interpretation of ethnographic research in the field of health and healthcare.

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.
The type of teaching activity planned for the course is exclusively that of lecture.
All in-presence meetings will be classical lectures (DE) and interactive learning (DI), averaging 50% and 50% of the total hours.
Meetings of an interactive nature include, for example, presentation and discussion of ethnographic cases viewing, analysis and discussion of multimedia and documentary materials; cooperative learning sessions.
There will be 6 hours delivered remotely in asynchronous mode to give students the opportunity to listen to the proposed content several times.

Online and offline teaching materials

During the course, supplementary materials will be progressively uploaded to the e-learning platform.

Programme and references

The bibliography includes the following three books:

1. Merrill Singer, Hans A. Baer, Debbi Long, Alex Pavlotski, 2019, *Introducing Medical Anthropology: A Discipline in Action*, Third Edition, Rowman & Littlefield Publisher, 320 pp.

2. Didier Fassin, 2007, *When Bodies Remember: Experiences and Politics of AIDS in South Africa*, University of California Press, 390 pp.

3. Seth Holmes, 2013, *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States*, University of California Press, 264 pp.

Students who prefer a bibliography in Italian can contact the teacher.

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

Wednesdays from 10 to 11 am.
For appointment and other information, please contact the teachers in each case: lorenzo.alunni@unimib.it and luca.rimoldi@unimib.it

Programme validity

Two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Dr. Chiara Moretti - chiara.moretti@unimib.it

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | GENDER EQUALITY | CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | CLIMATE ACTION