UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

# COURSE SYLLABUS

# Anthropology of Kinship and Gender

**2425-1-F0101R012**

## Course title

**Anthropology of Kinship and Gender**

## Topics and course structure

The course 1) presents different theoretical approaches in the anthropology of kinship and gender; 2) it explores the impact of feminist anthropology and gender studies on the anthropological analysis of kinship; 3) it addresses contemporary debates on reproduction and other transitions that mark the lives of individuals and households.

## Objectives

The course aims to provide master student with:

1. knowledge and tools for a critical understanding of kinship and gender;
2. abilities to identify and make connections between different understandings of kinship and gender;
3. skills for applying specific models of kinship and gender to the understanding human reproduction and other life transitions.

## Methodologies

The course consists of:

a) Two three-hour lectures in classroom. During the first lecture, the instructor explains the syllabus structure and contents, the final exam, and grading; during the last one, she highlights the main topics covered during the course and provides further information on the final exam. A streaming connection is provided to enable non-attending students participation.
b) One mid-course online lesson of three hours. This lesson is designed to be highly interactive, promoting active learning and engagement. In the first part, students watch audio-visual materials provided by the instructor. In the second part, they engage in small group discussions. They then present discussion results in a unified virtual classroom. Online attendance allows groups to view different audio-visual contents simultaneously and have a comparative discussion.
c) Sixteen mixed-methods lectures of 3 hours in classroom. These lectures are structured to provide a balanced learning experience. In the first part, the instructor delivers a comprehensive lecture. In the second part, students actively participate in interactive activities, including discussing texts and exercises directly related to the lecture's topic.

## Online and offline teaching materials

At the end of each section/topic, the lecturer uploads the slides onto the e-learning platform.
For some topics, links to audio-visual materials available on the web are also provided.
A collection of essays and articles (cf. bibliography point 3) is uploaded onto the e-learning platform at the beginning of the course.

## Programme and references

Current debates on kinship have shown a complex correlation between the biological aspects of reproduction and human life and broader kinship relationships. This is due partly to the impact of gender studies on kiship and to a new-found interest in the body and in personhood, as well to demographic changes, and to the spread of artificial reproductive technologies and of new family forms.

The course explores some of the central issues in the anthropology of kinship and gender. It introduces key concepts such as "descent", "marriage", "domestic groups/cycles", "sex/ gender", "family", "relationality" and "care". It also analyses contemporary debates on reproductive health, assisted reproductive technologies, adoption, kinning, intimacies and family forms and dynamics.
The focus is on reproduction and other life transitions as privileged events to observe the interactions of gender, kinship, politics, religion, science and law, and to reflect on how these interrelated social fields affect relations and subjectivities.

References


1. L. Stone, D. E. King, *Kinship and Gender An Introduction*, Routledge, 2019.
2. S. Grilli, Mattalucci C., *Parentele del terzo millennio*, Rivista di Antropologia Contemporanea, 2/2022, https://www-rivisteweb-it.unimib.idm.oclc.org/issn/2724-3168/issue/8677
3. A collection of articles and essays (available on the e-learning platform in early March)
4. 1 book among:
   S. Tremayne, *Inconceivable Iran. To Reproduce or Not to Reproduce?*, Berghahn, 2022.
   R. Di Silvio, *Parentele di confine. La pratica adottiva tra desiderio locale e mondo globale*, Danyang M&J Publisging House 2021
   C. S. Guerzoni, *Sistemi procreativi. Etnografia dell'omogenitorialità in Italia*, Franco Angeli, 2020.
   J. Carsten, H-C. Chiu, S. Magee, E. Papadaki, K. M. Reece, *Marriage in Past, Present and Future Tense*, UCL Press, 2021.

A. L. Acquistapace, 2022, *Tenetevi il matrimonio e dateci la dote. Il lavoro riproduttivo nelle relazioni di intimità, solidarietà e cura oltre la coppia nell'Italia urbana contemporanea*, Mimesis 2022.
R. Zecca Castel, *Mastico y trago. Donne, famiglia e amore in un batey dominicano*, editpress, 2023.
E. Rafferty, *Families We Need: Disability, Abandonment, and Foster Care Resistance in Contemporary China*, Rutgers Univ Pr, 2022.
M. Scaglioni, F. Diodati, *Antropologia dell'invecchiamento e della cura: Prospettive globali*, Ledizioni 2021
J. Favi, *Invecchiare. Prospettive antropologiche*, Meltemi 2021.

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

Grade will be based on the following:

1. Constant and active participation in classroom discussions and exercises.
2. Oral exam on the subjects covered by lectures and course bibliography. The evaluation will be based on the understanding of the texts contents; their clear and syntetic presentation; the ability to critically analyse and re-elaborate, making connections between lecture topics and assigned texts.

For students who will not attend lectures and carry out the activities proposed during the course, grade will be based on final oral exam only. Please, contact the course instructor for further advice on the course program.

## Office hours

By appointment

## Programme validity

Programme validity is two academic years

## Course tutors and assistants

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## Sustainable Development Goals

GENDER EQUALITY