UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Cultural Anthropology

2425-1-E3901N044

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

Starting from an idea of anthropology as the study and critical understanding of human diversity, this course aims to offer students: i) some basic methodological instruments of cultural anthropology and ethnography; ii) the main theoretical frameworks of cultural anthropology and; iii) some useful suggestions to read critically contemporary cultural processes by ethnography and by interpretive anthropology.

Applying knowledge and understanding

Furthermore, the course aims to focalize student's attention on the observation of cultural facts from an ethnographic perspective, and on the interpretation of everyday life details as relevant

Contents

Theoretical and methodological issues of Anthropology and Ethnography starting from the origins to current debates regarding the dynamics of culture in current societies. Introduction to the ethnographic approach to understand cultural variation.

Detailed program

1. What is cultural anthropology; 2. The concept of culture; 3. Ethnocentrism and relativism; 4. Ethnography; 5. Economic systems; 6. Reproduction, kinship and family life; 7. Culture and power relations; 8. Communication; 9. Religion; 10. Illness, desease, malaise, cure; 11. How we understand societies through culture (myths, rituals,

leisure, artistic expressions) ; 12. How anthropology interprets globalization: mobility, migrants, foreigners, travellers, tourists, local identities; culture and development.

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of social theory

Teaching methods

Lectures will be held in class. Students will be given assignments to facilitate the practical usage of anthropological concepts. Visual material will also be discussed in class for the same purpose.

Assessment methods

The examination will be written on a PC and will take place in one of the labs f the university. The exam questions will be based on the teaching material of the course.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

- Barbara Miller (2017), Cultural Anthropology in a globalizing world, 4th edition, Pearson Education inc.

- Matteo Aria e Adriano Favole (2015) L'arte della condivisione. Per una ecologia dei beni comuni. UTET, Torino, pp. 24-33.

- Matteo Aria (2016) I doni di Mauss, CISU, Roma, Capitolo 5. pp. 111-127.

- ONE of the following ethnographies :

(a) Capello Carlo (2020) Ai margini del lavoro. Un’antropologia della disoccupazione a Torino. Ombre Corte, Verona.

(b) Pozzi Giacomo (2020) Fuori casa: antropologia degli sfratti a Milano. Ledizioni, Milano.

(c) Scaglioni Marta e Diodati Francesco (a cura di) (2021) Antropologia dell'invecchiamento e della cura. Ledizioni, Milano.

(d) Vietti Francesco (2019) Il paese delle badanti. Meltemi, Milano.

(e) Vinai Manuela (2020) I giocatori. Etnografia nelle sale slot della provincia italiana. Meltemi, Milano.

(f) Rimoldi Luca e Pozzi Giacomo (a cura di) (2022) Pensare un’antropologia del welfare. Etnografie dello stato sociale in Italia. Meltemi, Milano. (Capitoli: 1,3,4,5,6,8,9).

(g) Gallotti Cecilia e Tarabusi Federica (a cura di) (2024) Antropologia e servizi: intersezioni etnografiche fra ricerca e applicazione. Ledizioni, Milano. (Capitoli: 1,3,5,6,7,8,12,13)

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS