UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Antropologia Culturale

2526-2-E1901R142

Course title

Cultural Anthropology

Topics and course structure

The course is an introduction to cultural anthropology, a discipline that provides critical knowledge aimed at understanding and analysing cultural diversity and the processes of identity construction, differences and inequalities in the contemporary world.
The course aims to encourage students to deconstruct certain categories that permeate contemporary society, such as culture, religion, gender relations, kinship, ethnicity and race, etc., so that they can rethink them critically within educational contexts.
The course is divided into two parts.

1. In the first part of the course, which is manual in nature, students will acquire a solid basic knowledge of cultural anthropology through the presentation of some authors and fundamental passages in the history of the discipline. Particular attention will also be paid to the ethnographic method, the anthropological tool for understanding cultural otherness based on field research, understood as “immersion” in another world of life and another environment, on the decentralisation of the gaze, on disorientation and reflexivity.
2. In the second part of the course, some of the topics covered in the first part will be explored in greater depth, with a monographic approach, along with contemporary developments in the discipline.

Objectives

The course aims to provide students with a set of skills that will enable them to interpret educational contexts in an

informed manner, providing them with basic critical tools for understanding the social and cultural dynamics that characterise the contemporary world and exploring the potential and friction that encounters with “the other” can entail. The course also aims to enable students to become aware of the specificity of their own cultural background, thus enhancing the acquisition of anthropological reflective skills.
This course aims to support the following learning outcomes in particular:

Knowledge and understanding

– Develop a critical and articulated knowledge of the tools and reasoning of cultural anthropology;
– Acquire knowledge useful for critical reflection on the complexity of the contemporary world.

Applied knowledge and understanding
– Apply the knowledge acquired, developing an attitude of comparison and critical recognition of different cultural realities.
– Design and evaluate educational contexts and experiences from a critical perspective, capable of observing and understanding the complexity of the contexts of reference.

Autonomy of judgement
– Acquire and consolidate analytical and critical thinking skills, taking reflective ethical and epistemological positions characterised by professional responsibility.

Communication skills
– Develop the ability to communicate effectively in multicultural contexts.
– Know and use the specific languages and vocabulary of anthropology as tools
for training, relationships and communication in different contexts.

Learning skills
– Ability to rework and organise knowledge;
– Ability to identify methods and tools to support one's own and others' personal and professional growth.

Methodologies

See Cultural Anthropology A-L and Cultural Anthropology M-Z

Online and offline teaching materials

See Cultural Anthropology A-L and Cultural Anthropology M-Z

Programme and references

See Cultural Anthropology A-L and Cultural Anthropology M-Z
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

Type of exam
The exam is oral and divided into two parts, both oral.

The first part concerns the manual part of the course (see Course topics and structure). Passing this part is essential to access the second part of the exam (which takes place on the same day), during which the other texts on the programme will be discussed.

Assessment criteria
The lecturer will assess both the solidity of the skills acquired and the students' ability to read the texts critically. Students must achieve a pass mark in the first part of the exam (at least 18/30) in order to proceed to the second part.

The assessment will be graded out of 30, based on the following scale:
1. Unsatisfactory (0-17)

- Insufficient preparation on the main topics covered in the course programme and bibliography;
- Very limited and poorly developed ability to argue, analyse and critically evaluate;
- Insufficient ability to connect theory and practice and to identify relevant links between the texts and the course topics;
- Incorrect presentation skills and specific vocabulary of the discipline.
  2. Sufficient - More than sufficient (18-23)
- General preparation and, in some respects, uncertain or incomplete on various topics covered in the course programme and bibliography;
- Ability to argue, analyse and critically elaborate is at times limited and not very independent;
- Difficulty in identifying relevant links between
  texts and course topics;
- Presentation skills and subject-specific vocabulary are only partially correct.
  3. Fair (24-27)
- Adequate preparation on the main topics covered in the course programme and bibliography, but lacking depth and/or incomplete on some more specific topics;
- Ability to argue, analyse and critically evaluate present, but not always accurate and independent;
- Fair ability to identify relevant links between the texts and the course topics;
- Presentation skills and specific vocabulary of the discipline are mostly correct.
  4. Good - Excellent (28-30/30L)
- Comprehensive and in-depth preparation on the topics covered in the course programme and bibliography;
- Ability to argue, analyse and critically elaborate in an articulate and independent manner;
- Good/excellent ability to identify relevant connections between the texts and the course topics;
- Good/excellent presentation skills and mastery of the specific vocabulary of the discipline.

NB: students with SLDs who intend to use compensatory tools are requested to send their P.Uo.I at least ten days before the exam.

Office hours

See Cultural Anthropology A-L and Cultural Anthropology M-Z

Programme validity

See Cultural Anthropology A-L and Cultural Anthropology M-Z

Course tutors and assistants

See Cultural Anthropology A-L and Cultural Anthropology M-Z

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES