UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Antropologia Storica

2526-2-F0101R065

Course title

Historical anthropology

Topics and course structure

Historical anthropology is a field of study between history and anthropology, born from the awareness that societies can only be understood if analysed historically. Different societies have different conceptions of time, cultures of memory and historiographies. In order to study social life from a diachronic perspective, historical anthropology draws upon archival research, ethnography, oral history and the analysis of material traces. This course traces the birth and development of the discipline, providing an overview of its key research areas and methodologies.

Objectives

Regular attendance on this course aims to promote the following learning outcomes:

1. Knowledge and understanding:
   a. Acquiring solid and systematic knowledge in the fields of historical anthropology.
   b. Identifing the specific applications of historical anthropology and tracing interdisciplinary connections.
   c. Understanding the specificities of historical anthropology, and the level of integration and interdependence between past and present social and cultural realities.

2)Ability to apply knowledge and understanding:
a. Articulating the dialogue between historical anthropological literature, fieldwork and archival research in an innovative ways.

b. Effectively identifing critical areas and design interventions for documenting and analysing the past using historical anthropological skills.
c. Transmitting specific knowledge and facilitating coexistence, mediation, and the development of environments that value social and cultural diversity.

3. Independent judgement:
   a. Understanding the complexity of historical processes by welcoming and valuing different points of view, and overcoming stereotypes and prejudices.
   b. Evaluating the consequences of one's actions and decisions by adopting a reflective and responsible attitude.

4. Communication skills:
   a. Articulating clearly ideas, knowledge and arguments.
   b. Composing texts and reports, employing different forms of expression.
   c. Formulating informed judgements, incorporating information from multiple relyable sources.

5. Learning skills:
   a. Cultivating and refining personal learning methods, autonomously identifying and constructing subjects and topics for study.

Methodologies

The course is divided into the following:
a) During the first lecture, the instructure will present the programme's structure and content, as well as the examination and assessment methods. During the final lecture, she will highlight the main topics covered during the course and provide further information on the final exam. A live stream will be available to allow non-attending students to participate.
b) Two on-line lessons. These lessons are designed to promote active learning and student engagement. In a recorded lecture, the instruct provides students with guidelines for carrying out a small piece of archival research or collecting oral sources independently. In the subsequent interactive lesson dedicated to this activity, the teacher responds to students' questions, guiding their ongoing research. The results of this work will be presented in class at the end of the course and assessed for the purposes of the exam.
c) Fifteen mixed-method lectures. These lessons are structured to provide a diverse learning experience. In the first part, the teacher delivers a lecture (erogative mode). In the second part, students participate in interactive activities such as discussing texts included in the exam programme and/or exercises related to the lesson's topic.
Lessons will be in Italian.

Online and offline teaching materials

Programme and references

The course examines the use of oral sources and documents in historical-anthropological research; it questions the cultural nature of history, memory and oral traditions; and analyses the theoretical and methodological peculiarities of an ethnographic approach to the past.

Bibliography
A) One book to be chosen from:

P. Viazzo, Introduzione all'antropologia storica, Rome-Bari, Laterza, 2000.
A. Coello de la Rosa & J. L. Mateo Dieste, In Praise of Historical Anthropology. Perspectives, Methods and Applications to the Study of Power and Colonialism, New York, Routledge, 2020.
B) M. Sahlins, Islands of History. Society and Myth in the South Seas, University of Chiacago Press, Chiacago, 1985.
C) A collection of essays (available on the e-learning platform at the beginning of March)
D) A book of your choice from:
M. Bloch, Apologia della storia, Feltrinelli, Milan 2024.
F. Dei, C. Di Pasquale, F. Cappelletto,Dall'autobiografia alla storia. Le memorie delle atrocità di guerra in Toscana, Pacini, Pisa, 2010.
J. Fabian, Time and Others. How Anthropology Makes Its Object, Columbia University Press, New York, 2014.
C. Ginzburg, Il formaggio e i vermi, Adelphi, Milano, 2019.
L. Passerini, Torino operaia e fascismo. Una storia orale, Officina Libraria, Rome, 2024
A. L. Stoler, Along the Archival Grain. Epistemic Anxieties and Colonial Common Sense, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2010.

Assessment methods

The oral final exam is aimed at assessing the knowledge acquired through the critical study of the texts included in the exam reading list and participation in the proposed activities (for attending students only). There will be no tests during this course.
The assessment will be based on the Dublin descriptors. The level bands are listed below.

Assessment criteria:

Level 1. Low (0-17/30): Not sufficient Knowledge and Understanding: The student demonstrates limited and fragmented knowledge of the texts and topics covered, with misunderstandings of the texts provided. Ability to apply knowledge: unable to verify general considerations on the authors/topics examined in the texts; able to summarise the contents of the texts presented only to a very limited extent, unable to contextualise and compare them. Autonomy of judgement: lacks critical thinking and autonomy of judgement; relies exclusively on information provided by the teacher or the critical bibliography. Communication Skills: has a halting, approximate, stereotyped oral expression; shows poor mastery of the specific language of the discipline. Learning Skills: has a limited ability to rework knowledge and relate it to their own experience; shows little awareness of the usefulness of the discipline.

2. Average level (18-24/30): Sufficient - Good Knowledge and understanding: The student demonstrates a general knowledge of the texts and topics covered, albeit with some gaps, inaccuracies on specific but non-essential aspects, or some misunderstandings in the analysis of the texts. Ability to Apply Knowledge: is able, albeit with some difficulty, to verify in the texts the general considerations on the authors/topics examined, when prompted by teachers; is able to summarise the texts presented in a reasonable manner, interpret them, contextualise them and compare them correctly. Autonomy of Judgement: shows partial autonomy in formulating critical evaluations, often limited to repeating the judgements of others. Communication skills: expresses themselves clearly and with sufficient precision, with a reasonable command of the specific language of the discipline. Is aware of the need to use different linguistic registers depending on the communicative situation. Learning skills: has a reasonable ability to rework knowledge and link it to their own experience; has partial awareness of the usefulness of the subject.

High Level (25-30/30): Distinguished - Excellent Knowledge and Understanding: The student demonstrates in-depth and solid knowledge of the texts and topics covered; understands and analyses the texts presented without hesitation. Ability to apply knowledge: is able to identify general considerations on the authors/topics examined in the texts with confidence and effective personal observations; with adequate argumentative skills, is able to analyse, summarise, interpret, contextualise and compare the texts presented, also making use of interdisciplinary

links. Autonomy of Judgement: demonstrates excellent critical skills, autonomy of judgement and originality in the analysis and interpretation of texts. Communication Skills: expresses themselves clearly, rigorously, fluently and appropriately. Is fully aware of the need to use different linguistic registers depending on the communicative situation. Learning skills: demonstrates excellent/very good independent learning skills, is able to effectively rework knowledge and link it to their own experience; is fully aware of the usefulness of the discipline.

NB: Students with PUOI (special educational needs) must email the document before the exam.

Office hours

By e-mail appointment.

Programme validity

This program is valid for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

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Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION