UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Antropologia Politica

2526-1-F5702R013

Course title

Political Anthropology
Fundamentals of Political Anthropology

Topics and course structure

Political anthropology examines power as a fundamental component of human life, making it crucial for understanding socio-cultural phenomena.

After an introduction to the subject and its key research areas, the course will examine some classic texts and explore how key concepts have changed in meaning throughout the discipline's history.

This will be followed by three thematic modules exploring some of the fundamental themes and debates in contemporary political anthropology: 1) Biopolitics and the politics of life: a series of lectures on the interplay between politics and the management of bodies, and the differential valuation of lives. 2) The anthropology of violence: how anthropology has addressed forms of violence and oppression. Frontiers: A transdisciplinary exploration of the politics and ethnographies of contemporary frontiers, as well as the ethnographies and artistic experiments that have investigated them.

Objectives

For students of the Master's Degree in Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences:
Through constant and active attendance of lessons, we intend to promote the following learning outcomes:

- knowledge and understanding of power as a historical process;
- knowledge and understanding of the perspectives developed by political anthropology to critically analyse power. You will develop the ability to grasp the transversality of the political dimension, and learn to apply your knowledge and skills to problem solving in concrete contexts and unforeseen situations, considering the perspectives of dominant and subordinate groups. This will help students to analyse different professional contexts, identify their needs and develop original projects and reflections.
  Students' communication, independent judgement and learning skills will be enhanced through discussions on theoretical and practical issues, which will help them monitor the adequacy of their knowledge and skills, and identify any areas that need further study.

For students of the Master's Degree in in Cultural and Social Anthropology:
Attending classes with perseverance and participation will promote the following learning:
· ACQUIRE solid and systematic knowledge in the field of demo-ethno-anthropological disciplines and, in particular, political anthropology
· IDENTIFY the theoretical and methodological specificities of ethno-anthropological disciplines, political anthropology and interdisciplinary connections
· UNDERSTAND the specificities of political anthropology and its level of integration and interdependence in complex social and cultural realities.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

· ARTICULATE the dialogue between scientific literature and research in an innovative way
· EFFECTIVELY APPLY the skills acquired to concrete problems, situations and contexts
· KNOW HOW TO CONVEY the sense of open-mindedness and the capacity for intercultural dialogue that are fundamental to demo-ethno-anthropological disciplines.

- Understanding the complexity of cultural processes and accepting and valuing different points of view, while overcoming stereotypes and prejudices.
  Assessing the consequences of one's actions and decisions and adopting a reflective and responsible attitude.

Communication skills:

- Expressing ideas, knowledge and arguments clearly.
- Writing texts and reports using different forms of expression.
- Making informed judgements by integrating information from different reliable sources.

Learning skills:
-Developing and refining one's own learning methods and independently identifying and constructing objects and topics for study.

For students of the Master's Degree in Artistic Languages for Education:
The course aims to promote knowledge and understanding of the anthropological and socio-cultural dimensions of the political sphere. It aims to develop the ability to grasp the transversality of the political dimension, and to apply knowledge and skills to solve problems in concrete contexts and unforeseen situations, considering the perspectives of dominant and subordinate groups. The course also aims to develop communication skills, independent judgement, and learning abilities by facilitating discussions on theoretical and practical issues.

Through participative class attendance, we intend to promote the following learning outcomes:

1. Knowledge and skills:

- Acquire knowledge of coordination models for services, events and training courses.
- Acquire knowledge of models for the valorisation of cultural and environmental heritage

2. Application of knowledge and understanding:

- Apply knowledge and skills to problem solving in concrete contexts and
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between theory and practice when solving problems in both concrete contexts and unforeseen situations.
- Identify and read educational and training needs in different contexts.

3. Autonomy of judgement:

- Analysis, synthesis and critical thinking skills
- Elaborating original ideas and plans in response to the needs of work contexts
- Developing the ability to analyse different professional contexts and identify their needs.

4. Communication skills

- Development of interpersonal skills and effective communication of acquired knowledge.
  This includes communicating with professional partners in the educational, organisational and artistic-cultural spheres (colleagues,Managers, principals, administrators, etc.) and non-professional partners (users, families, diffuse society).

5. Learning capacity:

- Ability to rework and organise knowledge
- Ability to use personal methods of autonomous promotion and tools to support one's professional growth.
  -Reflective and metacognitive skills to monitor the adequacy of one's own knowledge, and to identify areas that require further investigation.

Methodologies

The course consists exclusively of lectures.

There are 19 lectures in total (16 in-person and 3 asynchronous remote lectures), accounting for 56 hours in total.

All in-person meetings are interactive and account for an average of 60% of the total hours.

These interactive sessions will include the presentation and discussion of ethnographic cases, as well as the viewing, analysis and discussion of multimedia materials, films and documentaries.

Online and offline teaching materials

Attending classes is a dynamic experience. The course develops through collaboration between teachers and students in reading the selected texts and proposing additions. The recommended texts are available in the library and can also be downloaded from its digital platforms. The e-learning platform is the main point of reference for both attending and non-attending students.

Teachers will provide materials to support non-traditional students in their studies and exam preparation. Three asynchronous lessons will be uploaded at the beginning of the course.

Programme and references

For Master's Degree students in Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences and in Cultural and Social Anthropology:

1- Gledhill, J. Power and Its Disguises: Anthropological Perspectives on Politics, Pluto Press (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9).

2 - Morgan, L. H., The League of the Ho-de'-no-sau-nee, or Iroquois. (In case of difficulty in finding the text, please contact luca.rimoldi@unimib.it)

3 - Articles selected by Prof. Lorenzo Alunni (essays in English). Please contact him to get them: lorenzo.alunni@unimib.it

4 - A text of your choice from
Alunni, L. Le cicatrici di Ulisse. Corpi e frontiere nel Mediterraneo, Meltemi.
Das, V. Vita e parole. La violenza e la discesa nell'ordinario, Castelvecchi.
Gordon , N., Perugini, N. Scudi umani. Una storia dei corpi sulla linea del fuoco.
Zucconi, F. Displacing Caravaggio: Art, Media, and Humanitarian Visual Culture, Springer-Verlag.

5 - Fassin, D. Le vite ineguali. Quanto vale un essere umano. Feltrinelli.

For students of the Master's Degree in Artistic Languages for Education:

1 - Engelke, M. Pensare come un antropologo, Einaudi.

2 - Mauss, M. Le tecniche del corpo, ETS.

3 - Articles selected by Prof. Lorenzo Alunni (essays in English). Please contact him to get them: lorenzo.alunni@unimib.it

4 - A text of your choice from
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Assessment methods

Choosing an oral interview as the examination method is consistent with the course's objectives, as it enables interaction with students to assess their critical understanding of course topics and ability to connect theory and practice through a communicative dialogue situation. There are no ongoing assessments.

The assessment will be based on the Dublin Descriptors: the level bands are as follows:

1. Low level (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.

3. 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

To be agreed by email by writing to lorenzo.alunni@unimib.it

Programme validity

The programmes last for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION