UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Area Studies: China

2526-1-F0102R012

Course title

The theoretical and epistemological foundations of Traditional Chinese Medicine

Topics and course structure

The course critically discusses the epistemological and theoretical foundations of the forms of knowledge codified as Traditional Chinese Medicine. It uses a comparative perspective that crosses different medical systems, with particular reference to Western medicine

Objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Through the study of traditional Chinese medicine, the course aims to provide conceptual tools useful for understanding the cultural and social complexity of China and, more generally, of contemporary societies.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

- Starting from the analysis of ethnographic cases, the course exercises the cross-disciplinary and comparative approach of the discipline on the critical analysis of contemporary societies. The course thus aims to promote and develop the ability to articulate and apply different knowledge and theoretical models.

Autonomy of judgement

- Understanding the complexity of cultural and social processes, using different perspectives, theoretical models and reliable sources
- Evaluating the consequences of one's actions and decisions, adopting a reflective and ethically responsible attitude.

Communication skills

- Expressing ideas, knowledge and arguments clearly
- Formulating well-founded judgements, integrating the information produced.

Learning skills

- Refining and develop one's own learning methodologies, identifying and elaborating, autonomously and independently, one's own objects and topics of study.

Students are encouraged to participate actively in lessons, focusing on critical and autonomous thinking and communication skills.

Methodologies

The course consists of 19 lessons (13 in class and 6 online, for a total of 56 hours). All in-person lessons will be interactive, with an average of 50% of the total hours spent on teaching and 50% on interactive activities. Lessons will be held in Italian.

The course uses diversified methodologies: lectures; class discussions; the use of slides, audiovisual documents provided by the teacher or by the students; participation of guest speakers presenting their works. Online lessons.

Online and offline teaching materials

Online and offline teaching materials.

Programme and references

The lessons aim to provide the conceptual tools to understand Chinese medicine. They aim to assist students in analyzing the texts and in preparing the final written test.
The following are the main topics:
The invention of Traditional Chinese Medicine: institutionalization policies and standardization practices.
The main concepts of Traditional Chinese Medicine: the use of classical texts.
The theoretical and epistemological foundations of Chinese medical knowledge: the philosophy of change (Yi Jing), confucianism , daosim.
Correlative thinking.
«Body cultivation»: its techniques

Assessment methods

Students are required to produce a written paper which may concern both general theoretical aspects and the study of a particular case. The topic of the paper must concern the course themes or be connected to them (culturally, philosophically, theoretically). The elaboration of the scientific text is an exercise which includes the choice of the research object, the bibliographic research and the dialogue with scientific literature, the theoretical articulation of the concepts and writing. The topic of the paper must be proposed to the teacher and accepted by him. The paper may be written in Italian or English and must not exceed 7,000 words. It must be delivered exclusively in .doc or .docx format and must follow the editorial rules established for the MA thesis. The paper must be sent to the teacher no later than one week before the exam date.
The oral discussion of the written text, intends to verify the acquisition of the specific disciplinary language and the ability to articulate and critically discuss the topics of the course. It aims at verifying the knowledge acquired through the critical study of the texts.
It intends to evaluate the ability to critically understand the topics of the course and to connect theory and practice.

Office hours

Before classes by appointment.

Programme validity

Two academic years

Course tutors and assistants

Dott. Daniele Buonomo

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS