UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Fundamentals of Economic Anthropology

2526-1-F0102R004

Course title

Fundamentals of Economic Anthropology

Topics and course structure

The course aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the main themes, concepts and issues in economic anthropology. To this purpose, the course is divided into three parts.

The first part of the course will examine in depth the history of economic anthropology, within the broader context of the history of the discipline.

The second part of the course will consider key concepts and fundamental themes of the discipline, such as the gift, production, exchange, redistribution, markets, consumption and the informal economy. Particular attention will be paid to issues linking the themes of work and waste production.

Through the presentation of ethnographies conducted in Italy and other international contexts, the course will explore the debate on the anthropology of work with the aim of deepening the main recent theoretical and methodological approaches related to economic analysis in the era of globalisation.

Objectives

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, economic anthropology

· IDENTIFY the theoretical and methodological specificities of ethno-anthropological disciplines, economic anthropology and interdisciplinary connections
· UNDERSTAND the specificities of economic 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.

Independence of judgement:

- 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.

Methodologies

The type of teaching activity foreseen in the course is exclusively lectures.

All face-to-face meetings will be classic lectures (DE) and interactive learning (DI), averaging 60% and 40% of the total hours, respectively.

Interactive sessions will include, for example, presentation and discussion of ethnographic cases; viewing, analysis and discussion of multimedia materials and documentaries; cooperative learning sessions.

Three asynchronous lectures are planned. These lectures (DE) can be listened to several times by students according to their individual background knowledge on the subject. Lessons will be in Italian.

Online and offline teaching materials

Additional teaching materials may be uploaded to the e-learning platform during the course for students to study independently.

The teacher 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

The programme and exam bibliography require students to study the course content and the texts listed below.

Carrier J.A Handbook of Economic Anthropology (Part II and Part III - The manual is available among the University's digital resources and can therefore be downloaded free of charge in PDF format)
Polanyi K. The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time, Einaudi
Rimoldi L. and Scaglioni M. Antropologia e rifiuti nelle Afriche del Terzo Millennio, Utet
One text to be chosen from:
Candiani G - Vasche e martello. Minatori illegali nella Bosnia ed Erzegovina post-socialista: etnografia di un mondo sommerso
Capello C. – Ai margini del lavoro. Un'antropologia della disoccupazione a Torino, Ombre Corte
D'Aloisio F. – Partecipare all'impresa globale. Una ricerca antropologica in Automobili Lamborghini, Franco Angeli
D'Angelo L. – Diamanti. Pratiche e stereotipi dell'estrazione mineraria in Sierra Leone, Meltemi
Ghezzi S. – Etnografia storica dell'imprenditorialità in Brianza. Antropologia di un'economia regionale, Franco Angeli
Graeber D. -Bulshit Job, Garzanti
India T. – Antropologia della deindustrializzazione. Il caso della Fiat di Termini Imerese, Ed.it
Mollona M., Papa C., Siniscalchi V. – Antropologia delle imprese. Lavoro, reti, merci, Carocci
Mollona M., Made in Sheffield. An Ethnography of Industrial Work and Politics, Berghahn
Pozzi G., Rimoldi L. – Pensare un'antropologia del welfare, Meltemi
Rimoldi L. – Lavorare alla Pirelli-Bicocca. Antropologia delle memorie operaie, Clueb
Sanò G., Cordova G., Produrre e riprodurre soggettività nello scenario post-pandemico. Ledizioni
Zecca Castel R. - Come schiavi in libertà, Arcoiris

Although this course is taught in Italian, teaching materials may also be available in English for Erasmus students, who may take the exam in English if they wish.

Assessment methods

An oral test on the course content is aimed at verifying knowledge acquired through the critical study of the examination programme texts and active participation in course activities (for attending students only). There are no in-itinere tests.

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.

Office hours

By appointment, writing to prof. Rimoldi

Programme validity

The programmes last for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS