UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Anthropology

2526-1-I0101D007-I0101D022M

Aims

The course introduces anthropology as the scientific study of humans in their biological, evolutionary, cultural and social dimensions, with specific relevance for healthcare professions. Students will develop an understanding of human biological variability, evolutionary processes, the cultural construction of health and illness, and the importance of cultural competence in clinical relationships.

Contents

Introduction to Anthropology and its main branches. Human evolution and Darwinian theory; primate classification and the development of the genus Homo. Biological variability in human populations and environmental adaptation. Elements of physical anthropology, skeletal analysis and osteological methods. Core concepts of culture, nature–culture interaction and cultural transmission. Medical anthropology: explanatory models of illness, medical pluralism, symbolic systems, religion and healing practices. Applications of anthropology in clinical practice and patient interaction. Introduction to paleopathology and the study of human remains.

Detailed program

Program:

- Definition and historical development of anthropology
- Evolutionary theory and natural selection
- Evolution of the genus Homo and human dispersals

- Human biological variability and adaptation
- Physical anthropology and methods for studying human remains
- Culture, cultural transmission and the nature–culture relationship
- Medical anthropology and cultural competence in healthcare
- Introduction to paleopathology and biomolecular approaches

Prerequisites

Teaching form

Textbook and teaching resource

Manzi, G., Vienna, A., Uomini e ambienti. Una introduzione all'antropologia, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2009.
Barbujani, G., Brunelli, A., Il giro del mondo in sei milioni di anni, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2018
Piazza, G., Antropologia medica, Carocci, Roma, 2005.
Zink, A., Ötzi, Tutankhamon, Evita Peron. Cosa ci rivelano le mummie, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2016.
Lettura facoltativa:
Laneri, N., Archeologia della morte, Carocci, Roma, 2011.

Semester

First semester

Assessment method

Office hours

On appointment

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING