UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Globalization and Local Development

2627-2-F8702N018

Learning objectives

The course aims at providing theoretical and methodological tools to critically analyze specific conceptual categories such as “globalization”, “development”, “humanitarian intervention”, "aid".

Knowledge and understanding (D1)
Students will acquire theoretical and analytical tools to critically understand humanitarian, economic, and personal aid systems from a socio-anthropological perspective. key concepts such as need, development, participation, and empowerment in relation to various forms of aid projects will be critically discussed

Applied knowledge and understanding (D2)
Students will be able to apply theese key concepts to highlight critical issues in aid interventions, in particular their ethnocentric character, and then suggest corrective measures.

Autonomy of judgment (D3)
The course develops the ability to formulate independent critical assessments of various forms of aid and their impact on the reproduction of social inequalities and asymmetries between countries in the North and South of the world.

Communication skills (D4)
Students will be involved in group discussions. Argumentation skills will be enhanced through written exercises.

Learning skills (D5)
The course provides the basis for enhancing the ability to interpret local issues in relation to global dynamics and to critically navigate international scientific literature.

Contents

Critical anthropological approach to development, globalization, development aid, NGOs and humanitarian intervention

Detailed program

Globalization and local development will be discussed through the critical analysis of NGO's activities, International organizations dealing with economic development, and humanitarian intervention. The emergence of new professionals and new technocrats engaged on development, and their influential role on policy making will be discussed as well.

- The anthropological gaze will be used

a) to deconstruct development as a hegemonic expression of capitalism;

b) to look at the outcomes of development and humanitarian projects;

c) to look at their (un)intended consequences

- Presentation of the main theories of development and their respective criticisms
  - Viewing of several documentaries on development and its consequences on people's lives
  - The role of NGOs
  - Changes in aid in recent years and criticism of development
  - Presentation of case studies
  - Humanitarian aid

Prerequisites

Mastery of theoretical knowledge and methodological basis regarding anthropology and good skills in learning, writing and oral communication. English language required.

Teaching methods

Number of lectures:13.
Length: 4 hours each and one of 3 hours

Lectures will be given in classroom with the instructor. Visual material will be used and be discussed in class, but can also be accessed on line through the elearning platform. Assignments must be handed-in by uploading them on the same platform.
Instructions will be available on the e-learning platform.

Assessment methods

Written Exam:

Evaluation of students will comprise two online assignements
(instructions will be posted on the elearning platform at the beginning of the course);

- 2 written practical exercises assigned during course:

1. Description of a situation where reconciling human rights and cultural traditions proves to be problematic.
2. Viewing of one documentary (from a list) and writing a critical reflection on the case study presented. This must include the analysis of the interconnections between the different elements in light of one or more theoretical paradigms, and an intervention project proposal.

The skills that will be assessed:- Understanding of content- Ability to think independently - Written communication skills- Ability to link theory and real-life examples.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Sul Cultural relativism:

- Aime, Marco (2006) Gli specchi di Gulliver. Bollati Boringhieri, Torino.
- Barba, Bruno (a cura di) (2008) Tutto è relativo. La prospettiva in antropologia. SEID, Firenze.
- Biscaldi, Angela (2009) Relativismo Culturale. In difesa di un pensiero libero. UTET, Novara.
- Decarli, Giorgia (2012) Diritti Umani e Diversità Culturale. Percorsi internazionali di un dibattito incandescente. SEID, Firenze.
- Ignatieff, Michael (a cura di) (2001) Human Rights as Politics and Idolatry. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Latouche, Serge (a cura di) (2003) Il ritorno dell'etnocentrismo. MAUSS #1. Bollati Boringhieri, Torino.
- Remotti, Francesco (2008) Contro Natura. Lettera al papa. Editori Laterza, Bari.
- Okin Susan Moller (2007) Diritti delle donne e multiculturalismo. Raffaello Cortina Editore, Milano (ed. or. 1999).

On globalization:

- Beck, Ulrich (2018) Che cos'è la globalizzazione. Rischi e prospettive della società planetaria, Carocci, Roma (ed. or.: 1997)
- Hannerz, Ulf (2001) "Locale e globale. Continuità e Mutamento". In La diversità culturale, Il Mulino, Bologna, pagg.19-41.
- Appadurai, Arjun (2001) "Disgiuntura e differenza nell'economia culturale globale". in Modernità in polvere, Raffaello Cortina Editore, Milano, pagg. 39-65.
- Appadurai, Arjun (2014) Il futuro come fatto culturale. Saggi sulla condizione globale, Raffaello Cortina Editore, Milano.
- Eriksen, Thomas Hylland (2016) Fuori controllo. Un'antropologia del cambiamento accellerato. Einaudi, Torino.
- Eriksen Thomas Hylland (2020) Globalization The Key Concepts (2nd edition). Abingdon, Oxon (UK): Routledge.
- Steger, Manfred (2016) La globalizzazione. Il Mulino, Bologna.
- Friedman, Jonathan (2005) Introduzione" e "Sistema globale , globalizzazione e parametri della modernità". In La quotidianità del sistema globale. Bruno Mondadori, Milano, pagg.11-79.
- Zolo, D. (2002). Globalizzazione. Una mappa dei problemi. Laterza, Bari, 2002.

On post-modern critique:

- Garder K. and Lewis, D. (1996). Anthropology, Development and the Post-Modernist Challenge. London, UK: Pluto Press. ISBN 0745307469.

- Spiro, Melford E. (October 1996). "Postmodernist Anthropology, Subjectivity, and Science: A Modernist Critique", in Comparative Studies in Society and History, 38 (4): 759–780. doi:10.1017/s0010417500020521.
- Wolf, M. (1992). A Thrice Told Tale: Feminism, Postmodernism & Ethnographic Responsibility. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Kuper, Adam (1994) “Culture, Identity and the Project of a Cosmopolitan Anthropology”, in Man (NS) 29(3):1-18.
- Gupta, Akhil, and James Ferguson (1997) Discipline and Practice: "The Field" as Site, Method, and Location in Anthropology. In Anthropological Locations. Boundaries and Grounds of a Field Science. A. Gupta and J. Ferguson, eds. pp. 1-46. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Foucault, Michel (2005), Nascita della biopolitica: corso al Collège de France (1978-1979), Milano: Feltrinelli, 2005.

On development:

- Biggeri, Mario e Franco Volpi (2015) Teoria e politica dell’aiuto allo sviluppo, Franco Angeli, Milano.
- Stiglitz, J. (2006) “La promessa dello sviluppo”, in La globalizzazione che funziona. Einaudi, Torino, pagg.27-64.
- Malighetti, R. (a cura di) (2008) Oltre lo sviluppo. Le prospettive dell’antropologia. Meltemi Editore, Roma.
- De Sardan, Olivier J-P. (2008) Antropologia dello sviluppo. Raffaello Cortina Editore, Milano.
- Edelman, M., and A. Haugerud (2005) The Anthropology of Development and Globalization: From Classical Political Economy to Contemporary Neoliberalism. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd., pagg.105-177.
- Giovannini, Enrico (2018) L’utopia sostenibile, Laterza, Bari.
- Mosse, David (2011) Adventures in Aidland: The Anthropology of Professionals in International Development. Berghan Books, Oxford.
- Moyo, Dambisa (2010) La carità che uccide. Rizzoli.
- Escobar, A.(1988) “Power and Visibility: Development and the Invention and Management of the Third World”. Cultural Anthropology, 3(4): 428-443.
- Escobar, Arturo (1997) “Anthropology and development”. In International Social Science Journal, Volume 49, Issue 154, pages 497–515.
- Ferguson, James (1990). The Anti-Politics Machine: "Development," Depoliticization and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- William Easterly (2015) La tirannia degli esperti, Laterza, Bari.
- Easterly, William (2006) The White Man’s Burden: Why the West’s efforts to aid the rest have done so much ill and so little good. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- Unger, Corinna (2018) International Development. A Postwar History. Bloomsbury Academic, London-Oxford.
- Unger, Corinne et al. (2022) Perspectives on the History of Global Development. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Oldenbourg.
- Ziai Aram (2007), Exploring Post-Development – Theory and practice, problems and perspectives, Routledge, Oxon, New York.
- Ziai Aram (2013), The discourse of ‘development’ and why the concept should be abandoned, in Development in Practice, 23:1, 123-136.
- Ziai Aram (2019), Towards a More Critical Theory of ‘Development’ in the 21st Century, in Development and Change, 50:2, 458-467.

On ONG and humanitarian aid

- Agier, Michel (2005) “Ordine e disordini dell’umanitario. Dalla vittima al soggetto politico”. in Antropologia, anno 5, n.5, pp.49-65.
- Bachmann, Jan; Bell, Colleen; Holmqvist, Caroline (2015) War, Police and Assemblages of Intervention. Abingdon, UK: Routledge.
- Black, Maggie (2004) La cooperazione allo sviluppo internazionale. Carocci Editore, Roma.
- De Lauri, Antonio (2016) The Politics of Humanitarianism: Power, Ideology and Aid. London: I.B.Tauris.
- Duffield, D. (2003) Guerre postmoderne. L'aiuto umanitario come tecnica politica di controllo, Il Ponte,

Bologna.
- Fassin, Didier e Pandolfi, Mariella (2010) Contemporary State of Emergency. Cambridge, Massachusett: Zone Books.
- Fassin, Didier (2018) Ragione Umanitaria, Una Storia Morale Del Presente. Roma: DeriveApprodi.
- Ignatieff, M. (2003) Impero light: dalla periferia al centro del nuovo ordine mondiale, Carocci, Roma.
- Musarò, P. (2011) Living in Emergency: humanitarian images and the inequality of lives, New Cultural Frontiers, 2: 13-43.
- Pandolfi, M. (2008) “Sovranità mobile e derive umanitarie: emergenza, urgenza e ingerenza”, in. Malighetti, R. (a cura di) (2008) Oltre lo sviluppo. Le prospettive dell’antropologia. Meltemi Editore, Roma, pp.151-185.
- Pandolfi, M. (2005) “Paradossi etici e politici. La scena contemporanea”, in Culture e Conflitto (a cura di Callari Galli et al.) pp. 41-60, Guaraldi, Rimini.
- Pandolfi, Mariella (2008) “Laboratory of Intervention: The Humanitarian Governance of the Post-Communist Balkan Territories”. In Good, Mary-Jo Del Vecchio (a cura di) Postcolonial Disorders (Ethnographic Studies in Subjectivity) Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, pp.157-187.
- Pallotti, Arrigo e Zamponi, Mario (2014) Le parole dello sviluppo. Metodi e politiche della cooperazione internazionale. Carocci Editore, Roma.
- Polman, L. (2009) L’industria della solidarietà. Aiuti umanitari nelle zone di guerra. Bruno Mondadori, Milano.
- Rieff, D. (2005) Un giaciglio per la notte. Il paradosso umanitario. Carocci, Roma.
- Rostis, A. (2016) Organizing Disaster: The Construction of Humanitarianism. Bingley, UK: Emerald Group Publishing.
- Sontang, S., G. Spivak, T. Todorof, M. Ignatieff (2005), Troppo umano. La giustizia nell’era della globalizzazione. Oscar Mondadori, Milano.
- Zolo, D. (2003) “Fondamentalismo umanitario”, in M. Ignatieff, Una ragionevole apologia dei diritti umani, pp. 135-157, Feltrinelli, Milano.
- Zolo, D. (2002). Globalizzazione. Una mappa dei problemi. Laterza, Bari.

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION