UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Anthropology

2627-1-I0103D006-I0103D00603

Aims

The learning outcomes of the Anthropology course are defined as follows:

1. Knowledge and understanding
   By the end of the course, students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and a good understanding of the main concepts and approaches of anthropology, with particular reference to the biological, evolutionary, cultural and social dimensions of human beings. Students will also understand the role of cultural and social factors in health and illness, as well as the basic principles of cultural competence in healthcare professions.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding
   Students will be able to apply anthropological knowledge to the analysis of situations and issues related to health, illness and the care relationship, recognising the influence of biological, cultural and social factors on health behaviours and clinical practice.

3. Making judgements
   Students will be able to critically interpret human variability and different cultural models of health and illness. They will develop the ability to independently assess the implications that these differences may have both in care and in the relationship with the person receiving care.

4. Communication skills
   Students will be able to use appropriate language to describe and discuss anthropological concepts and issues relevant to healthcare professions, communicating clearly and respectfully with people from different cultural backgrounds.

5. Learning skills
   Students will develop the ability to independently use and further develop the conceptual and methodological tools of anthropology in order to explore topics that may arise in their future professional practice.

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

Lectures.

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

Written examination.

Office hours

On appointment

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING