SYLLABUS

Course description

The course belongs to the class "caratterizzante" (alternativa) in the MA in Eco-Social Design (LM-12). This course is a compulsory optional subject in the area "Observe, analyse & apply" and "Sciences & Discourse"

Course title	**Cultural Anthropology** **Area: Observe, analyse & apply** - Sciences & Discourse
Course code	**96114 and** 96014
Scientific sector	**M-DEA/01 – Scienze umane, sociali, psicologiche ed economiche**
Degree	**Master in Eco-Social Design (LM-12)**
Semester	**II**
Year	**1st and 2nd**
Credits	**6**
Modular	**No**
Lecturer	**Dr. Elisabeth Tauber** **Office 3.15 Faculty of Education** https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/10555-elisabeth-tauber
Scientific sector of the lecturer	**M-DEA/01**
Teaching language	**English**
Teaching assistant (if any)	-
Office hours	**By appointment only**
Teaching language	**English**
Total lecturing hours	**30**
Total hours of self-study and/or other individual educational activities	**about 120**
Attendance	**not compulsory but highly recommended**
Prerequisites	**-**
Course page	**http://pro2.unibz.it/projects/blogs/essen/**

Course description
This course offers an introduction to anthropological theory and method and highlights its relevance to a range of questions with regard to this year's theme *Agenda 1,5*. Anthropology is the discipline par excellence that deals with questions of relations between humans and humans-non-humans in diverse cultural contexts. The study and analysis of cultures through ethnography stands at the center of its focus. The critical reflection on concepts such as multispecies ethnography, relations between humans and non-humans, climate change, weather, loss of biodiversity and its cultural perceptions allows to contextualize cultural pluralities and diversities in dealing with these urgent issues. The course will offer students analytical tools and concepts for exploring ethnographically the perspective of other people.

About a third of the course will be related to the students' projects and connected issues, with the aim to sharpen each student's eco-social design practice and its agency by applying concepts and methods tackled in the course.

Educational objectives
The course aim is to integrate anthropological perspectives into perception and analysis of cultural artistic expressions while considering how these competences can be usefully applied within the students' projects. Additionally, the course will prepare students for a critical engagement with scientific texts and help them develop appropriate academic writing skills. The critical reflection on concepts such as human relationship with nature (ecology), the question of 'transformation' and power will lead to new understanding of bottom up approaches and grounded empirics.

Students will be able to:
- collaborate with experts and other designers to develop and implement an integrated project;
- propose and develop projects which will contribute to local development while considering the global context, starting from a "glocal" vision, which "focuses on the global and planetary dimension and the local one at the same time" (from the Dizionario Treccani);
- take into account the environmental, social and economic impacts occurring within the tension between global and local dimensions;
- take into account the socio-economic aspects that characterize a territory, a community and a group of people;
- integrate socio-economic aspects and sustainability requirements in project design while considering the tension, which occurs between the local and the global dimensions;
- develop an individual way of thinking, leading to critical judgements and self-assessments;
- balance more intuitive ways of working with more analytical ones;
- balance both emotions and functions in design and communication;
- communicate, multilingually in a convincing way, through a variety of modalities (written, oral, visual);
- design by taking into account the needs and desires of a given territory, of a situation/set of circumstances, of a specific group of people, thanks to the ability of observing, listening, interacting and mediating amongst various stakeholders involved in the project;
- talk to experts about the project;
- read experts' articles, studies and reports related to one's own project issues and integrate those analysis with one's own project design;

- take into account the sustainability requirements of a product, a service, an application or an interactive system; integrate the sustainability requirements in the project and in one's own design;
- organize a research project while identifying relevant studies and researches, experts to collaborate with, methods and instruments to adopt;
- outline the cultural, social and economic territorial framework where the students will intervene;
- sept up a field work or an inquiry in order to define the socioeconomic framework by exchanging ideas with researchers and experts they will collaborate with;
- understands specialist literature so as to integrate it within their own research project;

Knowledge will be acquired in the following fields:
- socio-cultural and linguistic relations of the populations and groups in the alpine territories, ways of dwelling together and the resulting conflicts, considering recent changes brought about by migration processes and the transformations of the labour market; but also the socio-cultural and linguistic relations in public institutions and their making of the world, social or agricultural policies, subgroups etc....

List of topics covered: Culture, cultural relativism, ethnography and ethnographic method,

Teaching format
Frontal lectures, seminar with presentations, discussion groups,

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding
- Knowledge of basic concepts in the anthropological study of culture.
- Acquisition of appropriate scientific languages for the description and analysis of social
- cultural phenomena. Applying knowledge and understanding
- Ability to apply anthropological approaches and concepts to the analysis of concrete socio-cultural-ecological contexts
- Ability to apply anthropological approaches and concepts in engaging scientific and cultural products.
- Making judgements
- Development of critical and independent thinking regarding social-cultural dynamics in the relationship between people and design.
- Development of reflexive self-awareness in design settings.
- Communication skills
- Ability to recognize the fundamental elements of scientific writing.
- Ability to develop a correctly structured short paper.
- Ability to participate in scientifically grounded discussions and express an informed opinion.
- Ability to communicate with appropriate sensitivity in intercultural contexts.

Learning skills
- Ability to autonomously extend the knowledge acquired during the course in dealing with various types of cultural products (scientific, journalistic, film, music, literary).
- Ability to acquire new concepts and information consistent with the analysis of changing social-cultural dynamics.
- Ability of actively listening to local people and make use of local voices for design purposes

Assessment
Written and oral. Assessment is based on a presentation in class, a written work and on the oral exam. The final paper will be used to verify the capacity to apply anthropological concepts and instruments to the analysis of studies relevant to eco-social design.
Non - attending students are required to participate in the Moodle course in order to be admitted to the final evaluation and will write a critical paper about an ethnographic film and a scientific paper based on the texts discussed during lecture.

Relevant products or outcomes developed in the course will become part of *The Transfolder* (to be submitted with the exam of the English course)

Assessment language: English

Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks
Criteria for the evaluation of the final paper and exercises will consider the ability to accurately apply course concepts and methods, the attempt to express original opinions and analyses, and the logical structure of exposition and argumentation.

Required readings
Haraway, Donna 1988 Situated Knowledges: The science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective, Feminist Studies 14 (3):575-599

Hartigan, John 2011 The Human is more than Human 2011 https://culanth.org/fieldsights/series/the-human-is-more-than-human

Ingold, Tim 2014 That's enough about ethnography! Forum HAU: Journal of Ethnographic theory 4 (1):383-395.

Tsing, Anna 2010. Arts of Inclusion, or How to Love a Mushroom. *Manoa. 22 (2): 191–203.*

Supplementary readings
Will be announced in class (on moodle).