

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”.

Course title	Cultural Anthropology Area: Observe, analyse & apply
Course code	96114
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	Prof. a c. Hilary Solly e-mail: hilary.solly@unibz.it webpage: https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/40868-hilary-solly office: F4.01a
Scientific sector of the lecturer	M-DEA/0o1
Teaching language	English
Teaching assistant (if any)	-
Office hours	18
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	-
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Course description

This course is an introduction to Cultural Anthropology and ethnographic methodology.

Cultural anthropology is the study of people, cultures, and societies both where we live and around the world. It takes cultures on their own terms, and values the importance of culture in helping us understand the world we live in. Cultural Anthropology gives us the tools that we need to understand human cultural and social difference, and to start to make sense of how people, groups and organizations think and behave.

The course will focus on the following overlapping themes:

- Nature, the environment, climate change and biodiversity loss.
- Agriculture, food and sustainability.
- Migration, borders and space.
- The Anthropocene, non-human worlds and challenging the human-centred perspective.
- Power, inequality and social justice.

Educational objectives

- Students will learn to see human cultures – that is, both their own and other cultures - from an anthropological perspective. That cultures are distinctive and understanding them requires accepting and negotiating otherness, and that cultural forms are socially or culturally constructed and enacted by symbolic process.
- Students will learn that anthropology as a discipline has a strong commitment to issues of social and ecological justice.
- Students will understand the process of anthropological analysis, interpretation, and representation: They will acquire the ability to make sense of – that is, describe, interpret, and analyze – an anthropological account while recognizing cultural contradictions, complexity, and ambiguity.
- Students will learn ethnographic methodology through study examples, fieldwork workshops, and ethnographic assignments.
- Students will learn to incorporate an anthropological and ethnographical approach – including the development of reflexive self-awareness and appropriate communication skills - into their eco-social design projects.

Teaching format

The course will introduce students to an understanding of anthropological theory and method using a combination of film, group work, fieldwork workshops, ethnographic assignments, guided walks, discussion and feedback sessions. Attention will be paid to the relevance of the approach to ecological and social design.

Assessment

Assessment is based on a presentation in class, a written text linked to an ethnographic assignment and on the oral exam. The final oral exam 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 should contact the professor.

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

Perspectives: An Open Invitation to Cultural Anthropology. Second Edition
<https://perspectives.americananthro.org/>

Staying with the Trouble. Making Kin in the Chthulusene.
Donna Haraway, 2016.

Supplementary readings

To be announced