

Syllabus

Course description

Course title	Food Anthropology
Course code	40405
Scientific sector	M-DEA/01
Degree	Bachelor in Agricultural, Food and Mountain environmental Sciences
Semester	2 nd
Year	I
Academic year	2023/24
Credits	6 CFU
Modular	No

Total lecturing hours	36
Total exercise hours	24
Attendance	Strongly recommended
Prerequisites	none
Course page	

Specific educational objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The course is a “base” subject in the degree program. • The scientific area is sociocultural anthropology. <p>Educational objectives:</p> <p>The course offers a general overview of sociocultural anthropology with regard to the study of food and foodways. It will introduce students to the basic concepts and major issues that have contributed to the anthropology of food and foodways.</p> <p>The course aims to develop students’ acquaintance with topics within food anthropology, including: anthropological categories of subsistence systems; mountain and Alpine food production; symbolic dimensions of food; food and religion; food, embodiment, kinship and gender; food and identity; food, power, social status, and social hierarchy; globalization, food activism and cultural change in food and foodways; anthropological research methods for the study of food and foodways.</p> <p>The course will analyze specific examples and case studies, especially from within anthropology’s unique cross-cultural perspective, fostering a critical approach to describing and analyzing food and foodways in our contemporary globalized society. Through the laboratory, it will give students the opportunity to apply the theoretical part as well as anthropological research</p>
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	<p>methods (“ethnographic journal” writing, participant observation, deep mapping, interviews) to the analysis of sociocultural aspects of food production, consumption, and exchange-distribution in local Alpine contexts.</p>
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<p>Learning outcomes</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Knowledge and understanding of basic anthropological concepts and research methods as they apply to the study of food and foodways; -Knowledge of appropriate scientific language for the socio-cultural description and analysis of food and foodways; -Knowledge of specific contexts and topics in the anthropological study of food and foodways. <p>Applying knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ability to utilize appropriate anthropological concepts and terminology when discussing relevant topics; -Ability to investigate relevant topics from an anthropological perspective and with anthropological methods; -Ability to make comparisons among specific contexts and topics. <p>Making judgements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Promote critical and independent thinking; -Foster consideration of ethical aspects of the subject matter; -Development of reflexive self-awareness in engaging sociocultural study of food and foodways. <p>Communication skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Skills in communicating in English on an academic level; -Ability to participate in scientifically grounded discussions and express an informed opinion; -Skills in the effective communication to an audience of peers (attending students). <p>Learning skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Develop the ability to deepen relevant knowledge autonomously; -Foster the ability to conduct anthropological research on relevant topics; -Foster the ability to acquire new concepts and information consistent with the analysis of changing social-cultural dynamics.
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<p>Assessment</p>	<p>Attending students: Course assessment will be based on an individual reading and in-class presentation of a scientific text (20%), group exercises during the laboratory (20%), a final individual presentation based on the individual ethnographic journal (30%), a short final oral exam on selected bibliography (30%).</p> <p>Non-attending students: Course assessment will be based on a written text -based on practical exercises that non attending students must carry out at home- to be sent to the docent (30%) and on an oral examination on the required bibliography (70%).</p> <p>Indications for all work and reading toward assessment will be provided through the OLE platform.</p>
<p>Assessment language</p>	<p>English</p>
<p>Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks</p>	<p>Attending students: Individual ethnographic journal writing and oral presentations: demonstration of comprehension and ability to correctly apply course concepts and scientific language; ability to summarize, evaluate and establish relationships between topics; clarity of exposition. Group exercise: ability to work in a team, creativity, skills in critical thinking, ability to summarize in own words.</p> <p>Non-attending students: The written text and the oral exam will be assessed on the basis of the demonstration of comprehension and ability to correctly apply course concepts and scientific language; ability to summarize, evaluate and establish relationships between topics; clarity of exposition.</p>
<p>Required readings</p>	<p>The online OLE platform will specify a selection of readings from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -G. Crowther 2018, <i>Eating Culture</i> (2nd ed.). Toronto: University of Toronto Press. -C. Counihan, P. van Esterly and A. Julier, eds. 2019, <i>Food and Culture: A Reader</i> (4th ed.). New York: Routledge. -L. Coleman, ed. 2011 <i>Food: Ethnographic Encounters</i>. Oxford: Berg.
<p>Supplementary readings</p>	<p>Other readings (articles, case studies) will be announced during the course.</p>