

Syllabus/Optional course

Title of the course:	Changing mountain communities and villages in the EUREGIO (II)
Lecturers of the course:	<p>Prof. A. Besana, geographer, Department of Literature, Philosophy, Economical-Political Geography, University of Trento</p> <p>Dr. T. Boos, geographer, Faculty of Education, Free University Bozen-Balzano</p> <p>Dr. N. Gabellieri, geographer, Department of Literature, Philosophy, Economical-Political Geography, University of Trento</p> <p>Prof. K. Kuhn, European Ethnologist, Department of History and European Ethnology, University of Innsbruck</p> <p>Dr. D. Salvucci, sociocultural anthropologist, Faculty of Education, Free University Bozen-Balzano</p>
Study programmes:	<p>Bachelor Social Education</p> <p>Bachelor Social Work</p> <p>Also open to all sections of Bachelor Communication Sciences and Culture, and to the</p> <p>5-year master degree in Primary Education (BiWi5) (Italian, German and Ladin sections)</p>
Study year:	Optional course
Semester:	II (2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th of April 2025)
Exam code:	64214
Scientific sector:	M-DEA/01, M-GGR/01, M-GGR/02
Total hours of lectures/laboratory:	26
Total consultation hours:	6
Credit points:	3
Language/es of instruction:	English
Attendance rules:	Requested
Educational objectives of the course:	<p>The course aims to introduce students to theories and methods of mountain studies, especially from sociocultural anthropology, social and economic geography, and European ethnology, focusing on Alpine EUREGIO environments. It will develop students' acquaintance with techniques of analysis of ecological, demographic, sociocultural, and political-economic dynamics of change (such as depopulation and repopulation phenomena, touristification, urbanization, and ecological crisis), and to reflect on and to critically discuss the teaching method of the excursion. Additionally, it aims to develop a critical and reflexive approach to analyzing and describing contemporary sociocultural processes of transformation in Alpine communities and villages.</p>

<p>Description of the course:</p>	<p>Various academics in anthropology, geography, sociology, and economic sciences point out that communities and villages in the Euregio are characterized by demographic, social and economic changes which are also linked to environmental transformations and crises (e.g., climate, COVID-19). The three-day field trip will focus especially on the interrelation of social changes and environmental crisis, focusing on demographic and economic transformation, migration, tourism, urbanization and social conflicts in Alpine municipalities and villages. These complex processes can be best understood through a multidisciplinary dialogue, <i>in situ</i> research experiences, and by bringing into discussion students from the three universities.</p> <p>During the three-day course the students will get insights into current research from leading experts of the Alpine region. Further, the field trip will prepare the students in a practical way to understand, explore and reflect on the complex processes of transformation which occur in Euregio. Students will be able to apply the intellectual and practical knowledge, acquired through the course, in their further studies and in future work.</p>
<p>List of topics:</p>	<p>Social changes, planning and doing excursions, environmental crisis, demographic and economic transformation, migration, tourism, urbanization, conflicts, and social dynamics in Alpine municipalities and villages of EUREGIO.</p>
<p>Description of the forms of teaching and learning:</p>	<p>The three-day field trip, including a seminar, will take place in the <i>Val di Fiemme</i> (twenty four hours). In addition, a two-hour online meeting about the organization of the course will take place previous the 3-day course.</p> <p>The seminar entails a set of lectures given by invited experts, followed by a practical workshop on geography and anthropology of the Alps, conducted by the teachers/experts from the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (unibz), the University of Innsbruck (uibk), and the University of Trento (unitn).</p> <p>During the field trip in the <i>Val di Fiemme</i> the students, together with the experts and the teachers, will explore historical, sociocultural, economic, and territorial transformations of this area <i>in situ</i> by a guided tour and by applying research methods such as observations, short interviews, and mapping. In particular, we intend to consider the case of the old social institution of the "Magnificent Community". The Community represents a form of collective management of common goods: mountain pastures, meadows and, above all, woods. It has been able to protect and enhance its environmental resources and make the timber trade an important and profitable economic activity for the valley. The main question we would like to address in the workshop is: how is this historical form of local institution capable of addressing current environmental challenges?</p> <p>The three-day course is open to a maximum of 24 students of the three universities involved. From each university, 8 students will be selected to participate. The 8 students from unibz will be selected on the base of their motivation letter of 200 words</p>

	<p>maximum to be sent to the unibz docents Dr. Tobias Boos (tboos@unibz.it) and Dr. Daniela Salvucci (Daniela.Salvucci@unibz.it) till 20.02.2025.</p> <p>Accommodation, meals and transportation during the seminar and field trip are covered by the EUREGIO-Mobility found (no additional fee for students is required).</p>
<p>Expected learning outcomes:</p>	<p><i>Knowledge and understanding</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of basic concepts in cultural geography, socio-cultural anthropology, and European ethnology in relation to Alpine and mountain studies. • Acquisition of appropriate scientific languages for the description and analysis of social-cultural phenomena, especially regarding change in the Alpine ecological and socio-cultural environments. • Knowledge about the preparation and planning of field trips and excursions. <p><i>Applying knowledge and understanding</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to identify connections between academic concepts and social realities during the field trip. • Ability to apply social-scientific approaches and concepts to the analysis of concrete social-cultural dynamics of transformation. • Ability to apply social-scientific approaches and concepts in engaging scientific texts and research. <p><i>Making judgements</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of critical and independent thinking regarding social-cultural phenomena. • Development of reflexive self-awareness in engaging social-cultural phenomena. <p><i>Communication skills</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to engage in scientific writing. • Ability to participate in scientifically grounded discussions and express an informed opinion. • Presentation and collaborative skills to carry out in-group research task. <p><i>Learning skills</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to autonomously extend the knowledge acquired during the course in dealing with ecological and socio-cultural dynamics of change in Alpine environments. • Ability to acquire new concepts, information, and methods to analyze social-cultural dynamics of change. <p><i>Learning strategies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frontal lectures (by the invited experts) • Interactive workshop and working in teams • Excursion

	<p>Assessment</p> <p>The eight attending students from unibz will be assessed on the base of a short paper to be written on the base of their learning experience of the three-day course and the reading of one text to be chosen from the required reading session.</p>
<p>Examination type:</p>	<p>A text of approx. 1.000 words (around 2 pages) about the experience of the excursion and a selected scientific article, and an oral exam</p>
<p>Exam language/es:</p>	<p>English, or German, or Italian</p>
<p>Evaluation criteria and criteria for the determination of marks earned:</p>	<p>Comprehension (of the chosen scientific article), coherence and reflexiveness of the discussion on the topic of the article in relation to the seminar lectures, the workshop, and fieldtrip experience.</p>
<p>Required reading:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boos T., Salvucci, D. 2022, Cultures in Mountain Areas. Comparative Perspectives. Introduction, in T. Boos, D. Salvucci (eds), <i>Cultures in mountain areas. Comparative perspectives</i>, Bu,Press, pp. 1-33. Open Access: https://bupress.unibz.it/en/produnkt/cultures-in-mountain-areas-comparative-perspectives/ • Further readings will be announced at the beginning of the course
<p>Supplementary reading:</p>	<p>Bender, O. & Karnitscheider, S. (2012). New immigration into the European Alps. Emerging research issues. <i>Mountain Research and Development</i>, 32(2), 235–241.</p> <p>Bätzing, W. (2015). <i>Die Alpen. Geschichte und Zukunft einer europäischen Kulturlandschaft</i>. C.H. Beck</p> <p>Bätzing, W., Perlik, M. & Dekleva, M. (1996). Urbanization and depopulation in the Alps. <i>Mountain Research and Development</i>, 16(4), 335–350</p> <p>Besana A., Gabellieri N., 2023, Dal GIS letterario allo sviluppo turistico locale: cartografia e itinerari odeporeici letterari in Trentino, Bollettino della associazione italiana di cartografia, 175, pp. 89-100.</p> <p>Boos T., Salvucci D., (eds), 2022, <i>Cultures in mountain areas. Comparative perspectives</i>, Bu,Press, pp. 1-33. Open Access: https://bupress.unibz.it/en/produnkt/cultures-in-mountain-areas-comparative-perspectives/</p> <p>Cole, J. W. & Wolf, E. R (1974). <i>The hidden frontier. Ecology and ethnicity in an Alpine valley</i>. University of California Press.</p> <p>Debarbieux, B. & Rudaz G. (2015). <i>The mountain. A political history</i></p>

from the enlightenment to the present (J. M. Todd, Trans.). University of Chicago Press. (Orig. publ. 2010).

Gabellieri N., Gallia A., Guadagno E., 2023, *Enogeografie. Itinerari geostorici e geografici dei paesaggi vitati, tra pianificazione e tutela ambientale*. Società Geografica Italiana. Open access: <https://societageografica.net/wp/2023/05/23/vol-7-enogeografie/>

Krauβ, W. (2018). Alpine landscapes in the Anthropocene: Alternative common futures. *Landscape Research*, 45(8), 1021–1031.

Kuhn, K. J. 2022. Explorations into Alpine Culture. Narratives of the Walsers and Alpine Folklore Studies, in T. Boos, D. Salvucci (eds), *Cultures in mountain areas. Comparative perspectives*, Bu,Press, pp. 243-266.

Mathieu, J. (2011). *The third dimension. A comparative history of mountains in the modern era*. The White Horse.

Netting, R. M. (1981). *Balancing on an Alp: Ecological change and continuity in a Swiss mountain community*. Cambridge University Press.

Orlove, B. et al. (2019). Framing climate change in frontline communities: Anthropological insights on how mountain dwellers in the USA, Peru, and Italy adapt to glacier retreat. *Regional Environmental Change*, 19(5), 1295–1309.

Tauber E., Zinn D. L., 2023. *Malinowski and the Alps – Anthropological and Historical Perspectives*. Bu,press. Open Access: <https://bupress.unibz.it/en/produnkt/malinowski-and-the-alps-anthropological-and-historical-perspectives/>

Viazzo, P. P. 1989. *Upland communities. Environment, population and social structure in the Alps since the sixteenth century*. Cambridge University.

Viazzo, P. P., Zanini R. C. 2022, Taking Stock of Two Decades of Change: The Alps and Alpine Anthropology in the Early Twenty-First Century, in T. Boos, D. Salvucci (eds), *Cultures in mountain areas. Comparative perspectives*, Bu,Press, pp. 123-150.