**Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology**

## Prof. Davide Navarria

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to introduce students to studies related to culture and cultures, in other words the complex of concepts and behaviours belonging to humans during the course of their history. For a comparative approach to both the differences and the underlying similarities in the various ethnological configurations, the course covers the general mechanisms of cultural processes and the ways in which cultures are structured and diversified.

By the end of the course, students will be familiar with the skills related to the content, methodology and history of research in the field. Moreover, they will be able to understand the present anthropological debate, with particular reference to phenomena such as new media and specific cultural, individual and community dynamics played out in the virtual spaces of the web and in relation to films, television series, video games and similar products.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course traces the history of the discipline in its fundamental junctions, with a constant reference to its development and current events with regard to its object, method, theories, themes and perspectives. In particular, we will focus on the following theoretical modules:

1. History of the discipline, brief introduction to the main stages and anthropological schools

2. The anthropological lexicon: cultural relativism, ethnography, field research, ethnocentrism, culture/cultures

3. Essential characteristics of anthropological reasoning and research methodologies

4. Livelihoods, social structures, settlements and housing. Human habitation

5. Identity and otherness. People, bodies, sexuality

6. Forms of kinship and social structures. Exogamy, inbreeding, marriages and exchanges

7. Communication, language, knowledge. Orality and writing

8. Beliefs, cosmologies, representations. The religious phenomenon and its metamorphoses in today's context

9. Magical thinking yesterday and today

10. Ritual and mythopoesis. Rites and myths, essential issues and current perspectives

11. Cultural creativity and aesthetic expression: storytelling, partying, play, art

12. The administration of power and the management of resources

13. Current perspectives and new challenges: netnography, new media, visual anthropology, climate crisis and environment.

***READING LIST***

* D. Navarria, *Abitare il mondo. Temi di antropologia culturale*, Educatt, Milano 2023
* One of the following texts (others will be recommended and or potentially agreed upon during the course):

S. Petrosino, (a cura di) *Il mito. Senso, natura, attualità*, Jaca Book, Milano 2016.

S. Patriarca, *Il digitale quotidiano. Così si trasforma l’essere umano*, Castelvecchi, Roma 2018.

G. Pietropolli Charmet, M. Aime, *La fatica di diventare grandi. La scomparsa dei riti di passaggio*, Einaudi, Torino 2014.

M. Canevacci, *La città polifonica. Saggio sull’antropologia della comunicazione urbana*, Rogas, Roma 2018.

M. Eliade, *Il sacro e il profano*, Bollati Boringhieri, Torino 2006.

F. Remotti, *Sull’identità,* Raffaello Cortina Editore, Milano 2021*.*

B. Malinowski, *Argonauti del Pacifico occidentale. Riti magici e vita quotidiana nella società primitiva*, Bollati Boringhieri, Torino 2011.

A. Appadurai, *Modernità in polvere*, Raffaello Cortina Editore, Milano 2012.

AA..VV., *Le case dell’uomo. Abitare il mondo*, Utet, Roma 2016.

AA.VV., *L’umanità in gioco*, Utet, Roma 2017.

M. Aime, *Il primo libro di antropologia*, Einaudi, Torino 2008.

M. Foucault, *Sorvegliare e punire. Nascita della prigione*, Einaudi, Torino 2014.

V. Matera, *La scrittura etnografica. Esperienza e rappresentazione nella produzione di conoscenze antropologiche*, Elèuthera, Manocalzati 2017.

M. Granet, M. Mauss, *Il linguaggio dei sentimenti*, Adelphi, Torino 2021.

M. Mauss, *Saggio sul dono. Forma e motivo dello scambio nelle società arcaiche*, Einaudi, Torino 2021.

M. Mauss, *Teoria generale della magia*, Einaudi, Torino 2000.

V. Turner, *Dal rito al teatro*, Il Mulino, Lavis 2021.

A. van Gennep, *I riti di passaggio*, Bollati Boringhieri, Torino 2020.

C. Lévi-Strauss, *Antropologia strutturale*, Il Saggiatore, Milano 2015.

C. Geertz, *Interpretazione di culture*, Il Mulino, Bologna 2019.

A. Biscaldi, V. Matera, *Antropologia della comunicazione. Interazioni, linguaggi, narrazioni*, Carocci, Roma 2017.

L. Volpi, *La selva instabile. Indigeni e genetisti nell’Amazzonia peruviana*, Raffaello Cortina, Milano 2022.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures (with the support of multimedia devices and materials).

Discussions.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final examination aims to assess students’ preparation of the specified reading list and their understanding of the overall course contents. Students will also be assessed on their ability to make effective arguments, their interdisciplinary, and their individual interpretation of the contents presented. Besides knowledge of course content, a key assessment criteria is the masterful and effortless use of the specialist terminology of the discipline, coupled with methodological rigour in the application of the theoretical instruments deemed most coherent and relevant to each exam question.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course has no prerequisites in terms of specific knowledge or skill.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.