Workshop on Development and Cooperation Paths in Latin America

Prof. Laura Volpi

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

The workshop aims to bring students closer to the social and political issues concerning the Latin-American context through extensive use of the anthropological perspective. Among the various topics, the course will focus on problems regarding gender, family, territorial management and the recent creation and organization of urban spaces. In addition, the course will explore issues concerning the relationships between the different sectors of the population (e.g. racism, the relationship with the Afro-descendant minority, clashes between state or regional bodies and indigenous groups). Finally, the course will examine the topic of international development and cooperation projects and aims to highlight how an ethnographic approach (from below) can guarantee the success of these projects.

At the end of the workshop, students will be able to (according to the Dublin

Descriptors):

1. Know the anthropological problems concerning the Latin American continent.

2. Identify the anthropological criticalities in the cooperation and development paths on problems presented in class.

3. Implement a cooperation project in a setting chosen by the student and apply the anthropological analysis and methodological guidelines taught by discipline teaches.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Ethnic-political issues in Latin America: the ancient pre-Columbian civilizations, the period of colonization, the current situation.
2. The indigenous problem in Latin America: culture, environment and politics. The protection of the rights of the indigenous population (specifically, the demarcation of land, the language identity recovery). Examples of development projects for indigenous populations.
3. The Afro-descendants: from ‘black conscience’ to the demarcation of Quilombolas lands in Brazil. The issue of racism and access to education for Afr-descendants in Brazil. Cooperation and development projects regarding these issues.
4. The gender issue: family structure, the problems of the female universe, the problem of female and child poverty. Topics and aspects of cooperation in relation to childhood and strengthening of the female figure within social groupings (women craftsmen, *parteras*, community leaders).
5. Medical anthropology: difference between the local and the Western idea of medicine. Observation of development projects related to the theme of health and disease prevention.
6. The urban issue: violence, coexistence, projects for the recovery and redevelopment of urban areas, basic groups’ protagonism.

***READING LIST***

Casella Paltrinieri, *L’esperienza umana. Introduzione alla antropolofia culturale*, CISU, Rome 2017.edia paper

Material will be provided during the course which will be the basis for class and personal work.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Interactive methods: study cases, media documents for discussing. Analysis, interviews and cooperation plans already started will be submitted. Students are requested to deepen by themselves the subjects dealing with during the workshop.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final exam will focus on the discussion of the cooperation project presented by the student. In the exam evaluation, the final mark will take into account the following elements: understanding of the fundamental issues addressed and of the anthropological method; competence in applying the anthropological knowledge to the cooperation project presented.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

Being an introductory workshop, there are no required prerequisites to attend the workshop. However, students are expected to show interest and intellectual curiosity for the Latin American world and, possibly, the ability to read documents in the language (especially Spanish and Portuguese).

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching and assessment will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

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.