

## Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology

2015/2016

Code: 101576  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500244 East Asian Studies	FB	1	2

### Contact

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### Use of languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)

### Other comments on languages

Half course is taught in Spanish and half course is taught in Catalan

### Teachers

Blai Guarné Cabello

### Prerequisites

None

### Objectives and Contextualisation

The course "Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology" is dedicated to the knowledge of cultural diversity, intercultural relations and ethnocentrism, as well as to the knowledge of different aspects regarding intercultural communication and mediation, as a basic axis for encouraging diversity respect and equality in interculturality.

It is a basic formation course which is essential and necessary to deal with East Asian area studies, since contents learnt are related to the knowledge of cultures and societies which are different from most of the students' ones.

Specific objectives are the concept of culture, anthropologic methodology and research techniques, as well as social and cultural otherness construction starting from different debates that have had a significant importance in the development of anthropological theory and practice.

We will go further into debates and intercultural contact consequences, such as racism, xenophobia and stereotypes; ethnicity, borders and limits; acculturation, hybridity and miscegenation; diversity and inequality; marginalization, exclusion and discrimination, among others, that mark the humanity in its plurality.

Finally, it will be done an introduction to current and East Asian Anthropology.

### Skills

- Applying knowledge of the ethical and methodological principles in order to ease the relations in international and intercultural contexts.

- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Developing self-learning strategies.
- Ensuring the quality of one's own work.
- Fostering respect of diversity and equality in the practice of interculturality.
- Having interpersonal skills.
- Knowing and comprehending the cultural diversity, intercultural relationships, and problems related to ethnocentrism in connection with East Asia.
- Knowing and comprehending the methodological and ethical principles that ease the relations in international and intercultural contexts.
- Knowing and using the information and communication technology resources (ICT) in order to collect, produce, analyse and present information related to the East Asian Studies.
- Recognising and overcoming the problems created by ethnocentrism in the intercultural communication and mediation.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Respecting the gender equality.
- Students must be flexible and capable of adapting to new circumstances.

## **Learning outcomes**

1. Applying knowledge of the ethical and methodological principles in order to ease the relations in international and intercultural contexts.
2. Assessing the obtained results in the information search process in order to update the knowledge about anthropology.
3. Demonstrating knowledge about key concepts and theoretical frameworks of anthropology.
4. Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
5. Developing self-learning strategies.
6. Ensuring the quality of one's own work.
7. Fostering respect of diversity and equality in the practice of interculturality.
8. Having interpersonal skills.
9. Knowing and comprehending the methodological and ethical principles that ease the relations in international and intercultural contexts.
10. Recognising and overcoming the problems created by ethnocentrism in the intercultural communication and mediation.
11. Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
12. Respecting the gender equality.
13. Students must be flexible and capable of adapting to new circumstances.
14. Using different tools for specific purposes in the field of anthropology.
15. Using the basic terminology of anthropology.

## **Content**

### **Unit 1: Anthropology as a "science" of cultural alterity**

- Starting point: historical context and the concept of "culture"
- Debate: Ethnocentrism/Relativism

### **Unit 2: Methodology and research techniques**

- Ethnographic method: fieldwork and participating observation
- Debate: Describing-Translating/Explaining-Interpreting

### **Unit 3: The construction of the Other by the difference**

- Evolutionism: comparative method and speculative deduction

- Debate: Culture/Civilization

#### **Unit 4: The construction of the Other by the diversity**

- Functionalism: structure and function
- Debate: Particular/Universal

#### **Key issues: Debates and the consequences of culture contact**

- Ethnicity and acculturation
- Borders and limits
- Racism and xenophobia
- Marginalization, discrimination, exclusion, inequality

#### **Unit 5: The construction of the Other by the similarity**

- Structuralism: dichotomy and sense
- Debate: Nature/Culture

#### **Unit 6: The construction of the Other by the signification**

- Symbolic anthropology and interpretationism
- Debate: Culture/Society

#### **Unit 7: The construction of the Other by the inequality**

- Cultural domination: colonialism and "modernity"
- Debate: Essence/Process

#### **Unit 8: Different, unequal, disconnected**

- Contemporary world anthropology: multiculturalism and globalization
- Global production of knowledge: Chinese and Japanese Anthropology
- Debate: Centre/Periphery

### **Methodology**

This course has theory and practice classes. Using the course "Campus Virtual" is essential, since it has the materials that must be read in order to follow the course and to pass i t-i. e., compulsory readings and all kind of information, necessary to develop the course.

Practice classes include watch films and documentaries, as well as participating in class debates.

Students shall use ICTs to document about an issue and to write a post in a blog which will be an important part of their work-it will be done as a team work. They will have to write an essay about a critical resume of a book, and, finally, they will have to take two exams.

In short, the methodology mentioned above fosters work with ICTs, self-learning tools, team-work and practices along with theoretical classes.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
<b>Type: Directed</b>			
Lectures	50	2	9, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15
<b>Type: Supervised</b>			
Post in a blog tutorised	17.5	0.7	1, 3, 4, 11, 12, 13, 8, 14, 15, 6
<b>Type: Autonomous</b>			
Autonomous	75	3	2, 9, 3, 5, 4, 10, 14, 15, 6

## Evaluation

### 1. Assessment, first part, 25% of the final note

The exam will prove that the student has assimilated this course's key concepts. It will also prove his or her reflection, argumentation, critical thinking and reasoning, as well as his or her ability to communicate in an effective way.

It will evaluate contents learnt in class, compulsory readings and practice activities corresponding to the first part of the course.

### 2. Assessment, second part, 25% of the final note

The exam will prove that the student has assimilated this course's key concept. It will also prove his or her reflection, argumentation, critical thinking and reasoning, as well as his or her communication in an effective way.

It will evaluate contents learnt in class, compulsory readings and practice activities corresponding to the second part of the course.

### 3. Critical resume of a monograph, 30% of the final note

It will evaluate personal work ability. Reading and commenting an ethnography regarding China or Japan. Evaluation criteria will measure the student's ability to introduce, in a synthetic, rigorous and precise way, the main ideas of the chosen ethnography and comment it basing on complementary article readings. Argumentation consistency, well-founded personal reflection and the use of complementary material will be evaluated.

Copy-pasting and lack of structuration will be penalized. Plagiarism and copy is a very serious fault, so the student who does so will fail. (See Bibliography section below).

### 4. Team work: post in a blog, 20% of the final note

This activity will be done in a 4 member team, established by the professors. Team work will develop competences regarding Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), in order to compile, elaborate, analyse and introduce information regarding social and cultural Anthropology.

Every team will have to do three tutor sessions with the professor-two during the initial and the development phase, and one for showing the project's advanced stage. The work aims to value different aspects regarding cultural diversity understanding, intercultural relations and ethnocentrism phenomenon, as well as intercultural and communication mediation and relationships in international and intercultural contexts.

Assessment criteria will be the evaluation of online work results-it will show the ability to work in group. Aspects that will have been taken into account are the following: exposition clarity, structural solidity and grounded argumentation, use of different sources, proposal originality and critical reasoning.

**"Not attended".** The student shall be considered as "not attended" unless he does, at least, the first three assessments, previously explained and which account for an 80% of the final note.

In special cases, the student may do an alternative test, such as an oral or written exam, or specific essays developing certain topics, in order to pass the course and complete one of the four parts in which the course's evaluation is structured. These tests will be done from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> weeks of the second semester.

Those who did not pass continuous evaluation with a final note between 4 and 4,9 shall do the previous tests. It is necessary to pass the two parts assessment with a mark of at least 4 in order to get a final note.

The list including the students having the right to take these additional tests, as well as their contents and date, place and time, will be published along with the course's final notes.

## Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
First part exam; Second part exam; Post in a blog; Essay on an ethnography	100%	7.5	0.3	1, 9, 3, 5, 4, 15, 6

## Bibliography

### REFERENCE BOOKS

Boivin, Mauricio; Rosato, Ana y Arribas, Victoria. *Constructores de otredad. Una introducción a la Antropología Social y Cultural*. Antropofagia, Buenos Aires, 2007.

<http://www.antropologiasyc106.com.ar/constructores.html>

Beltrán Antolín, Joaquín. *La diversidad cultural y el poder*. UOC, Barcelona, 2007.

### Ethnographies

Comment of an ethnography on China or Japan based on complementary articles reading. The comment will have to present in a synthetic, rigorous and precise way the chosen ethnography's main ideas and will have to analyze it based on the keys inferred in complementary articles reading.

Beltrán Antolín, Joaquín. *Los ocho inmortales cruzan el mar. Chinos en Extremo Occidente*. Edicions Bellaterra, Barcelona, 2003.

Lisón Tolosona, Carmelo, *La fascinación de la diferencia. La adaptación de los jesuitas al Japón de los samuráis, 1549-1592*. Akal, Tres Cantos, 2005

Web pages:

Blog of UAB's Biblioteca d'Humanitats Anthropology (BHAnthropologia)

<http://blogs.uab.cat/bhantropologia/>