

Comparative Research

2015/2016

Code: 43149

ECTS Credits: 12

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313769 Anthropology: Advanced Research and Social Intervention	OT	0	A

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)

Teachers

Aurora González Echevarria

Anna Maria Piella Vila

Montserrat Ventura Oller

Virginia Fons Renaudón

Pablo Dominguez Gregorio

External teachers

Rodrigo Diaz Cruz

Prerequisites

There are not previous requirements.

Objectives and Contextualisation

(This module is part of the specialty 1 and comprises both semesters):

Goals:

- To know the dialectics between particularism and comparison that reflects the development of the history of Anthropology
- To know the most relevant theoretical debates concerning the concepts of personhood, body and identity, both from the perspective of a group (collective ethnical identities) as from the person's viewpoint, in order to apply them to specific ethnographic studies and delimited comparisons.
- To get familiarized with the classical theories of kinship, as well as the proposed alternatives, both particularists and comparatives.

Skills

- Carry out ground-breaking, flexible research in anthropology by applying theories and methodologies and using appropriate data collection and analysis techniques.

- Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Defend arguments clearly, precisely and appropriately within the context, and at the same time value the contributions made by other people.
- Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
- Make cross-cultural comparisons using the various procedures in anthropology.
- Solve problems in new or little-known situations within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to the field of study.
- Systematically link up concepts, and theories within the discipline so as to analyse specific ethnographic contexts.
- Use information and communication technologies efficiently to acquire, create and spread knowledge.

Learning outcomes

1. Apply the knowledge acquired to problem-solving in particular ethnographic contexts.
2. Choose comparable units of analysis in cross-cultural research.
3. Choose the most appropriate form of comparison for the investigation of a social and cultural problem.
4. Defend arguments clearly, precisely and appropriately within the context, and at the same time value the contributions made by other people.
5. Identify important elements in institutional documents and/or scientific texts that help to formulate judgments and reflect on social and ethical responsibilities in anthropology.
6. Identify the forms of cross-cultural comparison used in the formulation and development of anthropological theories.
7. Integrate primary and secondary ethnographic data from varying sources.
8. Present conclusions and intervention proposals in the context of research
9. Show mastery of the dialectic between particularity and universality in the themata that appear in different societies in relation to the concepts of body, person and identity.
10. Systematically link up concepts, and theories within the discipline that fit in with the specific ethnographic research context.
11. Understand and use information and communication technologies in accordance with the ethnographic context chosen for study and/or intervention.

Content

1. Identity, personhood and group in Africa, America and Australia.

1.1. General theory on the notion of personhood / corporality. The notion of personhood and group in Central Africa. The Ndowe case.

1.2. Person and individual in Tropical America. Personhood in the Tsachila case. Ethnic identity: a general and a Tsachila overview.

1.3. Identity, personhood and group in Aboriginal Australia. The Djirbal case.

2. Kinship and ethnographic research.

2.1. Theoretical landmarks and presentation of a proposal.

2.2. Ethnographic models.

2.3. Analysis and concept criticism.

3. Research and cross-cultural comparison.

3.1. Delimited forms of comparison.

3.2. A recent proposal of cross-cultural delimited comparison.

3.3. Successive comparison and the development of research programs.

3.4. Cross-cultural comparison based on the selection of cases from multiple cultural groups. The application of mixed methods.

4. People, territories and environments: resources and cultural cartographies.

4.1. Society and environment: current debates.

4.2. Use and conception of environment in the Moroccan High Atlas.

4.3. Environmental justice.

4.4. Space, territory and cultural maps: case studies in Ecuador, Venezuela and Perú.

5. Ritual, Performance and Power.

Methodology

- Lectures and master classes
- Reading and analysis of academic articles / reports.
- Analysis of ethnographic and audiovisual documentation.
- Presentation / oral expositions
- Personal study
- Tutoring
- Essay preparation and writing.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Analysis of ethnographic and audiovisual documentation.	7	0.28	6, 11
Lectures and master classes	68	2.72	3, 6, 10
Personal study	60	2.4	6, 7
Type: Supervised			
Analysis of academic articles / reports.	36	1.44	1
Presentation / oral expositions	15	0.6	4, 7
Tutoring	24	0.96	5
Type: Autonomous			
Essay preparation and writing	40	1.6	1, 7
Reading and analysis of academic articles / reports	50	2	3, 6, 2

Evaluation

The student must attend a minimum of the 80% of lectures in every block and submit all required evaluation evidences (essays, reports...), as well as the individual paper. Once this condition is fulfilled, the final module

will be the graded according to the following proportion: attendance (20%), block evaluation (30%) and a final individual paper (50%). To pass the module the minimum grade is 5/10. Failing in the accomplishment of any evaluation requirements would result in the consideration of "not assessable". Exceptionally, the MA program Committee may consider duly justified cases and propose an alternative evaluation procedure.

The due date for the final individual paper in this module is 13 April 2016. (Please, check regularly the Virtual Campus).

All information concerning the evaluation evidences will be published in the module section of the Virtual Campus.

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Attendance and active participation in the classroom	20%	0	0	9, 3, 6
Essay writing	50%	0	0	1, 8, 7
Submission of reports / short essays	30%	0	0	1, 4, 7

Bibliography

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