

History of Anthropology

Code: 101276
ECTS Credits: 12

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500256 Social and Cultural Anthropology	OB	2	A

Contact

Name: Maria Montserrat Clua Fainé
Email: Montserrat.Clua@uab.cat

Use of languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: Yes

Teachers

Beatriz Ballestin Gonzalez

Prerequisites

This subject has no prerequisites

Objectives and Contextualisation

This subject is an anual course of 2nd grade. It traces the historical development of Anthropology, since its consolidation as an academic discipline in the second half of the nineteenth century to the main theoretical developments made after World War II.

Its principal educational purposal is to give historical coherence to the readings that are done in a dispersed way in the rest of the subjects of the degree. At the end of the course students should be able to explain:

- a) The general, theoretical and methodological characteristics of the different theoretical schools or currents that have happened in the history of anthropology;
- b) The main theses and developments of each one of the authors considered.

Content

BLOCK I. THE BACKGROUNDS OF ANTHROPOLOGY

- 1. What history of what anthropology? Central and peripheral anthropologies.
- 2. The vision of otherness in Antiquity and Middle Ages.
- 3. The discovery of "the other" in the Renaissance and the Baroque silence.
- 4. The immediate antecedents of anthropological work of the Enlightenment.

BLOCK II. VICTORIAN EVOLUTIONISM

1. The emergence of academic anthropology.
2. Aspects of theory and method of evolutionary orientation.
3. L. H. Morgan, paradigm of evolutionist authors (1818-1881).

BLOCK III. DIFFUSIONISTS. THE HISTORICAL THOUGHT IN ANTHROPOLOGY

1. Aspects of theory and method of diffusionist orientation.
2. The National variants of Diffusionism.
3. The contribution of Franz Boas (1858-1942).

BLOCK IV. AMERICAN CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND THE SCHOOL OF CULTURE AND PERSONALITY

1. The historical development of *Cultural Anthropology* in USA.
2. The school of Culture and Personality. Influences and phases.
3. The contribution of R.F. Benedict (1887-1948).

BLOCK V. THE BRITISH FUNCTIONALISM

1. The general development of *Social Anthropology* in Great Britain.
2. Functionalism and functionalisms: discrepancies within functionalist school.
3. Aspects of theory and method of functionalist orientation.
4. The contribution of B. Malinowski (1902-1942).

BLOCK VI. LÉVI-STRAUSS STRUCTURALISM

1. The general development of *Ethnology* in France
2. Structuralism, a school, a method or an activity?
3. Claude Lévi-Strauss (I): how to become a structuralist?
4. Claude Lévi-Strauss (II), Naive Structuralism (1942-1952): the application of the structural method to the study of kinship.
5. Claude Lévi-Strauss (III), the generalized structuralism (1964-1973): the systematic study of the myth.

BLOCK VII. NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGIES AFTER WORLD WAR II

1. France after Lévi-Strauss: other Structuralisms (L. Dumont, P. Clastres) and Marxist structuralism.
2. The heirs of British Functionalism: E.E. Evans-Pritchard (1902-1973) and the new Functionalist lines (M. Gluckman, E. Leach) and Symbolists (V. Turner, M. Douglas).
3. American anthropology during and after World War II: materialistic versus symbolist (Marvin Harris and Marshall Sahlins).