

Research Epistemology, Methods and Techniques

Code: 43142
ECTS Credits: 9

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313769 Anthropology: Advanced Research and Social Intervention	OT	0	1

Contact

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Teachers

Aurora González Echevarria

Carles Feixa Pampols

Use of languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)

External teachers

William Christian Jr.

Prerequisites

There are no previous requirements.

Objectives and Contextualisation

- To know advanced epistemological and methodological debates.
- To combine different methodologies in order to obtain relational and interpretative explanations which may allow an in-depth comprehension of our study object.
- To obtain a profound knowledge of various relational data collection and organization techniques.
- To obtain basic knowledge of the use of audiovisual techniques for the collection and analysis of data.
- To know how audiovisual products may be used as ethnographic documents.
- To be able to combine quantitative and qualitative techniques in specific ethnographic approaches.

Skills

- Carry out ground-breaking, flexible research in anthropology by applying theories and methodologies and using appropriate data collection and analysis techniques.
- Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously
- Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
- Know the methodological and epistemological developments in the fields of anthropology research and social intervention in contexts of cultural diversity.
- Make cross-cultural comparisons using the various procedures in anthropology.
- Make interpretations and relational explanations to assist in understanding specific ethnographic contexts.

- Systematically link up concepts, and theories within the discipline so as to analyse specific ethnographic contexts.
- Use acquired knowledge as a basis for originality in the application of ideas, often in a research context.
- Use information and communication technologies efficiently to acquire, create and spread knowledge.
- Work in teams, generating synergies in work environments where different people need to collaborate and coordinate themselves.

Learning outcomes

1. Apply critical procedures to the correction of interpretative schema.
2. Critically analyse audiovisual documents as ethnographic documents.
3. Differentiate between theoretical concepts, concepts belonging to the culture of the anthropologist and those belonging to the culture under study.
4. Find original ways to combine ideas, based on the knowledge acquired, within research work on anthropology and social intervention.
5. Identify important elements in an interview, or in a particular ethnographic observation, 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. Identify the most appropriate information-compiling techniques for drawing up life histories and biographies and in order to reconstruct social events through witness accounts.
8. Modify and amplify categories of analysis in context by applying a theoretically-oriented abductive contrastive logic.
9. Under the supervision of tutors, carry out all the stages of a research project and/or an intervention (documentation, reflection, analysis of data and writing) in the context of the anthropology master's dissertation.
10. Understand and use information and communication technologies in accordance with the ethnographic context chosen for study and/or intervention.
11. When comparing two theories, differentiate between comprehension of underlying cultural content and assessment of empirical appropriateness.
12. Work in coordination with other team members on the analysis of anthropological studies and on compiling and analysing ethnographic data.

Content

The module is divided into four "blocks":

1. Methodological and epistemological orientations in Anthropology.

[Responsible teacher: Aurora González] (4 sessions, 8 hours)

- 1.1. Theoretical tools to cancel the opposition between scientific methodologies and hermeneutic methodologies.
- 1.2. Hermeneutics as ontology and as methodology. Interpretation procedures.
- 1.3. Ethnographies as predicates of structure that integrate relationships between sociocultural structures, processes and meanings.
- 1.4. Epistemological critique of ethnographies. Parallelisms and discrepancies between Fleck, Pike and Agar.

2. Life Histories.

[Responsible teacher: Carles Feixa] (8 sessions, 16 hours)

- 2.1. The concept of "Life history".

2.2. The autobiographic imagination.

2.3. The construction of the life history.

3. The Use of photography in anthropological documentation. Personal and familial images as ethnographic and historical source.

[Responsible teacher: Bill Christian] (8 sessions, 16 hours)

3.1. Multi-generational photographic material.

3.2. Multi-generational pictures. Images of presence and absence.

3.3. What is seen and what is not in a picture.

3.4. the life cycle of a picture.

4. Audiovisual Anthropology.

[Responsible teacher: Jordi Grau] (4 sessions, 14 hours)

4.1. Audiovisual Anthropology.

4.2. The audiovisual text. Audiovisual productions within research projects.

4.3. Ethnography and documentary.

4.4. Fiction: reflections and refractions.

4.5. Some examples of anthropological research combining ethnographic film, fiction and ethnography.
Audiovisual technologies for Anthropological research: new formats.

Methodology

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

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures and master classes	56.25	2.25	2, 3, 11, 5, 6, 8, 10
Reading and analysis of academic articles / reports	25.5	1.02	5, 7
Type: Supervised			
Presentation / oral expositions	26.25	1.05	2, 1, 12, 10
Tutoring	30	1.2	9, 5

Type: Autonomous			
Essay preparation and writing	38	1.52	1, 4, 12, 10
Personal Study	49	1.96	3, 11, 6, 8

Evaluation

This section of the Study Guide contains all information related to the process of evaluation of the module.

Assessment of the module:

In order to pass the module, the following aspects are taken into account:

- **Regular assistance and participation:** First, to ensure that the expected learning results are obtained, we consider it fundamental that students assist the classes and participate actively in them. For this reason, students are required to assist at least 80% of each course ("block"). Furthermore, the extent to which they participate in presentations, discussions, training sessions is evaluated. This participation is considered in the final note for each course.
- **Continued assessment of the blocks:** Second, each course or block proposes one or multiple activities that allow a continued assessment of the learning process. The activities can vary from a written test to a presentation in class, computer lab assignments, a review of a few articles or chapters, or a short essay, among others. Jointly, the evaluations for the different courses that make up the module (30%) and the participation in these courses (20%) constitute 50% of the final grade of the module. The deadlines for these activities are indicated by the lecturers.
- **Evaluation of the final paper for the module:** Last, the grade obtained on a final paper constitutes the remaining 50% of the final grade for the module. In the case of the modules that make up the specializations (in particular, E1.1, E1.2, E2.1, E2.2 and E3.1), each student **selects the course that is of major interest for his or her master thesis, from the set of courses that make up the module. The evaluation will be based on this course.** The evaluation can consist of a larger essay of approximately 3,000 / 4,000 words, possibly in the format of an article, a review of a state of the art of a specific theme, or a paper that addresses a specific issue in the discipline on the basis of readings recommended by the lecturer of the course that the student has chosen for evaluation. The deadline for the submission of the final paper is the **8th of February**.

It is essential to respect the deadlines.

Each lecturer determines the way in which papers are to be submitted (through the *Campus Virtual*, by e-mail or in printed form -in the mailbox of the lecturer-). The lecturers communicate the results of the evaluation through the established ways and establish a period of consultation before they communicate the grades to the coordinator of the module. The student can request a tutorial with their lecturers throughout the course if they wish to clarify some point of the contents of the course.

Within the *Life Histories'* block there is a fieldwork stay scheduled at Bonansa, between January 18th and January 20th.

In general, not submitting the documents that are to be evaluated results in the qualification "**Not assessable**". In exceptional, well justified cases, the Committee of the Master Program may propose an alternative procedure for the evaluation.

General criteria

Assessment is understood as a **continued process** throughout the term.

The qualifications are made on a **scale from 0-10** with one decimal. To pass the subject, a **minimum final grade of 5.0** is needed, as a result of the assessment procedure explained above. Once the subject is passed, **it cannot be subjected to a new evaluation**.

The programming of assessment activities cannot be modified unless an exceptional and well justified reason exists for this, in which case a new program is proposed during the term.

When a student performs an **irregularity** that can lead to a significant variation of the qualification of an assessable activity, **the activity will be qualified with a 0**, independently of the disciplinary process that might follow. In the case that various irregularities in the assessable activities are performed within the same module, the qualification of the module will be 0.

The qualification "**not assessable**" in the final records of evaluation implies the **exhaustion of rights inherent in the enrolment to the module**, although the "not assessable" module will not figure in the academic transcript.

The **copying or plagiarism of material**, both in the case of papers as in the case of exams, constitutes an **offence** that will be sanctioned with the **qualification 0 on the activities, the loss of the right of reevaluation, and being suspended from the module**. "Copying" a paper refers to a student reproducing the whole or part of a paper of another student. Plagiarism is presenting the whole or a part of the text of another author as if it were the student's own, without citing the references, on paper or digitally. Please see the documentation of the UAB about plagiarism on:

http://wuster.uab.es/web_argumenta_obert/unit_20/sot_2_01.html.

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Attendance and active participation in the classroom.	20%	0	0	2, 3, 11, 6, 8
Individual essay / video-essay	50%	0	0	4, 9, 7, 10
Submissions	30%	0	0	1, 4, 5, 12, 10

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