

Seminar on Advanced Anthropological Theories and Research

Code: 101256
ECTS Credits: 12

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500256 Social and Cultural Anthropology	OT	3	0
2500256 Social and Cultural Anthropology	OT	4	1

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Prerequisites

There are not prerequisites

Objectives and Contextualisation

The purpose of the seminar is to discuss some issues in depth but also to transcend historically contingent disciplinary boundaries. The specific objectives are to analyze research and theoretical and methodological proposals of special relevance and interest.

The content of this academic course will be developed in two blocks, which have two axes: transdisciplinarity and transculturality. The first one will deal with transdisciplinary research in the study of parenthood while the second will address the classical and current theoretical proposals on intra and transcultural comparison, and their use and modification in recent comparative research.

Competences

Social and Cultural Anthropology

- Assessing epistemological and methodological problems attached to the dialectics between particularism and comparison.
- Assessing in theoretical, methodological and ethical terms the anthropology investigations aimed to basic objectives or oriented to intervention.
- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

Learning Outcomes

1. Applying the current ethical codes to the ethnographic fieldwork.
2. Carrying out oral presentations using appropriate academic vocabulary and style.
3. Classifying and defining different transcultural comparison procedures.
4. Critically considering and trying to avoid ethnocentric projections in theory building.
5. Differentiating specific methodological aspects of basic researches.
6. Distinguishing ethnographic specificity and theoretical definitions of fields and concepts in the comparative processes.
7. Effectively expressing themselves and applying the argumentative and textual processes of formal and scientific texts.
8. Identifying main and supporting ideas and expressing them with linguistic correctness.
9. Identifying the transcultural variability of economic, kinship, political, symbolic and cognitive, educational and gender systems as well as their corresponding anthropological theory.
10. Providing a context for a research related to the state of its concerning anthropological theory .
11. Recognising the ethical implications of the ethnological relationships established during the fieldwork internship.
12. Recognising the ethical implications of the investigations aimed at basic objectives.
13. Relating elements and factors involved in the development of scientific processes.
14. Summarising acquired knowledge about the origin and transformations experienced in the several fields of anthropology.
15. Summarizing the characteristics of a written text in accordance to its communicative purposes.
16. Using suitable terminology when drawing up an academic text.

Content

1st Block: Approach to the transdisciplinary investigation of parentality

I. Wallerstein: historicity and limits of disciplinary studies.

II Evolutionary theory and parenthood in non-human primates.

III Parentality and Neuroscience.

IV Parentality in Psychology and Psychoanalysis.

IV Parentality in Social Sciences: Sociology, Social work, Social and cultural anthropology.

2nd Block: Procedures for intra and transcultural comparison and comparative research

I. The classical and current hologeistic comparison. The proposals of Tylor and Murdock. Use of the Human Relations Area Files and the eHRAF. Proposal by F. Héritier. Research on circulation of children.

II. The controlled comparison. From inductivism to heuristics. The proposal of Nadel. Investigations on remote motherhood.

III. Continuous (intracultural) comparisons in grounded theory. The proposals of Glazer and Straus Research on the nature and extent of cocaine use in Barcelona.

IV. Intracultural comparison for the putting of theories: systematic combination of qualitative and quantitative techniques. The GRAFO approach. Research on "Socio-economic differences and cultural difference in l'ambient de la salut en barris d'actuació prioritària de Catalunya".

V. Successive cross-cultural comparisons. The development of the research programs. Analysis proposal.

Methodology

1. The reading of the texts proposed in general, which will be accredited with the submission of a small commentary in the session in which they are discussed. The comment should include points that are selected for the collective discussion. The comment should include points that are selected for the collective discussion.

2. The preparation, and presentation by each of the subgroups of the bibliographic assignments on each block, prepared in PowerPoint (25%).

3. The realization of an individual essay on each of the blocks, which will be presented after the discussion of the texts and the presentations at the seminar

The work of students will consist of: participating in class; show a proactive attitude as members of the group with a clear individual involvement in the final work; read for the expected date the text for the debat in the classroom ,

and delivery on time of the corresponding individual essays

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Assistance to conferences, with preparation prior to theoretical guidance and later discussion	10	0.4	1, 5, 2, 9, 4, 11, 13
Proposal of general reading texts, in their theoretical and methodological context	12	0.48	3, 10, 5, 6, 4, 14
Readings to be done by each group, in their disciplinary context and articulation with the readings made by the other groups	13	0.52	3, 10, 5, 6, 4, 13, 14
Theoretical classes, discussion of common readings and presentation of group works	45	1.8	1, 10, 7, 2, 12, 13, 14
Tutorials for groups	45	1.8	1, 3, 10, 5, 9, 13
Type: Supervised			
Elaboration of group work and preparation of a ppt or an audio-visual document for presentation in the classroom	50	2	7, 2, 8, 13, 14
Type: Autonomous			
Individual reading of texts and synthesis of basic and / or problematic topics for the, discussion in the classroom	40	1.6	5, 16, 9, 8, 4, 12, 15, 14
Preparation of individual essays that critically synthesize the main topics throughout the course, including those presented by the different groups.	40	1.6	10, 5, 6, 7, 16, 8, 12
Individual reading of texts for later discussion in a group and presentation to the classroom.	45	1.8	10, 5, 6, 16, 9, 13, 15, 14

Assessment

This seminar has a high number of credits and consequently the assistance and participation are obligatory. However, the purpose is to subdivide the group for one of the assignments to maximize the time devoted to reading and personal and team reflection. A maximum of 30% of non-attendances that will cover any type of incident is accepted.

For the evaluation, the following procedure will be taken into account:

1. The reading of the texts proposed in general: 40%. Since it is an instrument for discussion, submissions outside the corresponding session will not be accepted.
2. The preparation and presentation by each of the subgroups : 35%.
3. The realization of an individual essay on each of the blocks, 25%)

RE-EVALUATION

Group work and individual essays can be re-evaluated, but not the comments of the texts proposed for discussion in the classroom.

Students who engage in misconduct (plagiarism, etc.) in an assessment activity will receive a mark of "0" for the activity in question. In the case of misconduct in more than one assessment activity, the students involved will be given a final mark of "0" for the subject.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Elaboration and Presentation of two works done in group. . The group's work process will be monitored in tutorials	25%	0	0	1, 3, 10, 5, 6, 7, 2, 16, 9, 8, 4, 12, 11, 13, 15, 14
Reading and discussion in the class-room of the texts proposed	40%	0	0	1, 10, 5, 6, 7, 2, 16, 9, 8, 4, 12, 15, 14
Realization of an individual essay on each of the blocks	25%	0	0	3, 10, 5, 6, 7, 16, 9, 8, 4, 12, 15, 14

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