

Seminar on Critical Theory and Anthropological Thought

Code: 101257
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500256 Social and Cultural Anthropology	OT	3	0
2500256 Social and Cultural Anthropology	OT	4	2

Contact

Name: Jordi Castellvi Girbau
Email: Jordi.Castellvi@uab.cat

Use of Languages

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

Prerequisites

Have studied "History of Anthropology". It is not recommended for third-year students.

Objectives and Contextualisation

This seminar constitutes a space for innovative epistemological and theoretical discussions that allow, along with the subjects of specialized thematic areas, to deepen the critique of anthropological knowledge and provide a first specialization. The main objectives are: The discussion of texts that allow critical reflection on the epistemological, political and ethical controversies that arose in Anthropology after World War II. The issues involved are criticisms of the supremacy of the method, epistemological debates on relativisms and universality, political criticism of the social responsibility of anthropology, and the consequences of the interpretative turn on the legitimacy of anthropology to represent others cultures and the emphasis on reflexivity.

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. Critically considering and trying to avoid ethnocentric projections in theory building.
4. Effectively expressing themselves and applying the argumentative and textual processes of formal and scientific texts.
5. Identifying main and supporting ideas and expressing them with linguistic correctness.
6. Identifying the transcultural variability of economic, kinship, political, symbolic and cognitive, educational and gender systems as well as their corresponding anthropological theory.
7. Providing a context for a research related to the state of its concerning anthropological theory .
8. Recognising the ethical implications of the ethnological relationships established during the fieldwork internship.
9. Recognising the ethical implications of the investigations aimed at basic objectives.
10. Relating elements and factors involved in the development of scientific processes.
11. Summarising acquired knowledge about the origin and transformations experienced in the several fields of anthropology.
12. Summarizing the characteristics of a written text in accordance to its communicative purposes.
13. Using suitable terminology when drawing up an academic text.

Content

1. Introduction: history, epistemology, ethics
 - 1.1. The history of anthropology as an anthropological problem
 - 1.2. History of a tension: humanity and diversity
2. Anthropology in crisis: knowledge and power - the lost innocence
 - 2.1. Contextual factors of the crisis
 - 2.2. Epistemological consequences of the crisis: from primitive objects to subjects
3. National traditions
 - 3.1. A debate made in the USA: ethnographic objects become political subjects
 - 3.2. Other memories, other consciences: ignorances between Great Britain and France
4. The problem of anthropological explanation
 - 4.1. A humanity, several cultures: the relativism debate - universalism
 - 4.2. Forms of relativism-universalism
5. The interpretative turn and other culturalisms
 - 5.1. Geertz: culture as a text
 - 5.2. First criticism of interpretativeism
6. Postmodern anthropology
 - 6.1. Deconstructing anthropology
 - 6.2. Contributions and criticisms
7. And in spite of everything ... new and old proposals

7.1. New and old ethnography

7.2. Rethinking history and modernity

Methodology

Teaching methodology:

Master classes with the support of the new information and communication technologies (NTIC).

Visualization and discussion of audio-visual material.

Guidelines for reflection and critical discussion on issues related to history, epistemology and ethics

Guidelines for reflection and critical discussion in questions related to history, epistemology and the ethics of anthropological work.

Preparation of essays and text comments on bibliographic and audiovisual material.

Training Activities:

Theoretical classes

Oral presentations and discussion of group readings. Comprehensive reading and discussion of texts.

Individual study and team discussion.

Preparation of individual and group work.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Master classes	34	1.36	1, 7, 13, 6, 3, 9, 8, 10
Seminars (presentation of texts and discussion)	24	0.96	7, 4, 2, 13, 5, 3, 9, 10, 12, 11
Type: Supervised			
Tutorials	1	0.04	4, 6, 10, 11
Type: Autonomous			
Preparation and presentation of essays	30	1.2	7, 4, 2, 13, 5, 3, 9, 8, 10, 12, 11
Study and personal work	59	2.36	7, 6, 9, 10, 12, 11

Assessment

Module work delivery (70%)

Essay 1: 35%

Essay 2: 35%

Participation module (30%)

Attendance and participation in the discussions-lecture seminar (70% mandatory presence): 15%.

Oral presentation in a reading discussion session: 15%

*At the beginning of the course, the instructions for the exercises will be given.

*The non-delivery of the first essay, except in justified cases, will imply a "non-evaluable".

*The Participation module is NOT reevaluable!

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Participation in the seminar and oral presentation	30%	2	0.08	4, 2, 13, 5, 3, 10, 12, 11
Preparation of essays	70%	0	0	1, 7, 4, 13, 6, 5, 3, 9, 8, 10, 12, 11

Bibliography

1. Introduction: history, epistemology, ethics

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2. Anthropology in crisis: knowledge and power - the lost innocence

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3. National traditions

USA

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France

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4. The problem of anthropological explanation

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7. And in spite of everything ... new and old proposals

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