

Seminar on Critical Theory and Anthropological Thought

Code: 101257
ECTS Credits: 6

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

Contact

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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

It is advisable to 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
- Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
- 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.
- Demonstrate skills for working autonomously or in teams to achieve the planned objectives including in multicultural and interdisciplinary contexts.
- Introduce changes in the methods and processes of the field of knowledge to provide innovative responses to the needs and demands of society.
- 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 analyse the principles, values and procedures that govern the exercise of the profession.
4. Critically considering and trying to avoid ethnocentric projections in theory building.
5. Effectively expressing themselves and applying the argumentative and textual processes of formal and scientific texts.
6. Effectively working in teams and respecting different opinions.
7. Explain the explicit or implicit code of practice of one's own area of knowledge.
8. Identify situations that require improvement or change.
9. Identifying the transcultural variability of economic, kinship, political, symbolic and cognitive, educational and gender systems as well as their corresponding anthropological theory.
10. Plan work effectively, individually or in groups, in order to fulfil the planned objectives.
11. Providing a context for a research related to the state of its concerning anthropological theory .
12. Recognising the ethical implications of the ethnological relationships established during the fieldwork internship.
13. Recognising the ethical implications of the investigations aimed at basic objectives.
14. Relating elements and factors involved in the development of scientific processes.
15. Summarising acquired knowledge about the origin and transformations experienced in the several fields of anthropology.
16. Summarizing the characteristics of a written text in accordance to its communicative purposes.
17. Using suitable terminology when drawing up an academic text.
18. Weigh up the impact of any long- or short-term difficulty, harm or discrimination that could be caused to certain persons or groups by the actions or projects.

Content

1. Introduction: history, epistemology, ethics
2. Anthropology in crisis: knowledge and power - the lost innocence
3. National traditions
4. The problem of anthropological explanation
5. The interpretative turn and other culturalisms
6. Postmodern anthropology
7. And in spite of everything ... new and old proposals

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.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Master classes	30	1.2	1, 11, 17, 9, 4, 13, 12, 14
Seminars (presentation of texts and discussion)	20	0.8	11, 5, 2, 17, 4, 13, 14, 16, 15
Type: Supervised			
Tutorials	18	0.72	5, 9, 14, 15
Type: Autonomous			
Preparation and presentation of essays	30	1.2	11, 5, 2, 17, 4, 13, 12, 14, 16, 15
Study and personal work	50	2	11, 9, 13, 14, 16, 15

Assessment

Essay 1: 35%

Essay 2: 35%

Participation module (20%)

Attendance and participation in the discussions-lecture seminar : 10%.

Oral presentation in a reading discussion session: 10%

Delivery of a commentary on the oral presentation: 10%

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

*On carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.

*The Participation module is NOT reevaluable!

*The student will receive the qualification of No Evaluable provided that has not delivered more than 30% of the activities of evaluation.

* The student will only have the right to re-examination in the situation to deliver at least one of the two proposed essays for the course.

Plagiarism

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Comment on the oral presentation	10%	0	0	11, 5, 16, 15
Essay 1	35%	0	0	3, 1, 11, 7, 5, 17, 9, 8, 4, 10, 13, 12, 14, 16, 15, 18
Essay 2	35%	0	0	3, 1, 11, 7, 5, 17, 9, 8, 4, 10, 13, 12, 14, 16, 15, 18
Participation in the seminar and oral presentation	20%	2	0.08	7, 5, 2, 17, 4, 14, 16, 15, 6

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

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- Farish, Matthew. 2005. "Archiving Areas: The Ethnogeographic Board and the Second World War", *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, vol. 95, nº 3, pp. 663-679.
- González, Roberto I. 2004. *Anthropologists in the Public Sphere. Speaking Out on War, Peace, and American Power*, Austin, University of Texas Press.
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3. National traditions

USA

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Great Britain

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France

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4. The problem of anthropological explanation

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5. The interpretative turn and other culturalisms

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6. Postmodern anthropology

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

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Software

There are no specific computer programs