

Economic Anthropology

Code: 101267
ECTS Credits: 6

2024/2025

Degree	Type	Year
2500256 Social and Cultural Anthropology	OB	2

Contact

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Teachers

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

No specific requirement is needed, but general knowledge of social anthropology is recommended.

Objectives and Contextualisation

Main goals of the course are:

- To know the most important disciplinary contributions of economic anthropology.
- To understand the historical and cultural diversity of the economic institutions.
- To identify forms of informal economy in our immediate environment.

In addition:

- To valorise the ethnological heritage related to the field.

Competences

- Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
- Apprehending cultural diversity through ethnography and critically assessing ethnographic materials as knowledge of local contexts and as a proposal of theoretical models.

- Carry out effective written work or oral presentations adapted to the appropriate register in different languages.
- Demonstrate skills for working autonomously or in teams to achieve the planned objectives including in multicultural and interdisciplinary contexts.
- 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 demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the history of anthropological theory and the genesis of its basic concepts.
- Take sex- or gender-based inequalities into consideration when operating within one's own area of knowledge.
- Use digital tools and critically interpret specific documentary sources.
- Using the discipline's ethnographic and theoretical corpus with analytical and synthesis skills.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analysing the complementarity and incongruities of several ethnographic reports from the same area.
2. Applying the basic concepts of the anthropological theory.
3. Assess the reliability of sources, select important data and cross-check information.
4. Assessing critically the explicit and implicit theoretical models in the ethnographic materials.
5. Critically analyse the principles, values and procedures that govern the exercise of the profession.
6. Critically identify and compose a basic bibliography for the field of study.
7. Effectively working in teams and respecting different opinions.
8. Establishing historical connection between ethnographic and theoretical development.
9. Express ideas with a specific vocabulary appropriate to the discipline.
10. Identify the principal forms of sex- or gender-based inequality and discrimination present in society.
11. Identifying the sociocultural variability through ethnographic texts and audiovisual resources.
12. Identifying the transcultural variability of economic, kinship, political, symbolic and cognitive, educational and gender systems as well as their corresponding anthropological theory.
13. Interpreting the cultural diversity through ethnography.
14. Knowing and understanding the culture's influence in the various institutional systems of social action.
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. Theoretically analysing ethnographic examples of cultural diversity in the fields of kinship, economy, politics and religion.

Content

The contents of the subject are structured in different thematic blocks:

1. Anthropology and economics
2. Theoretical orientations in economic anthropology
3. Informal economy and employment.
4. Production.
5. Distribution.
6. Consumption

Within each block the topics are the following:

1. Anthropology and economics

- Aristotle and the scholastics
- Fisiocracy and political economy
- The classical economy
- The Marxist economy
- The neoclassical economy
- Keynesianism, Monetarism, Neoinstitutionalism.

2. Theoretical orientations in economic anthropology

- Formalist arguments
- Substantive Arguments
- Environmental deterministic versus possibilityism
- Cultural evolution and adaptation
- Cultural ecology
- Godelier's structural Marxism
- Meillassoux: the mode of domestic production.
- The invention of underdevelopment
- The theory of dependence
- The capitalist involution

3. Informal economy and employment

- The dual labor market
- The "end of work"
- Beyond the market
- Ethnic enclaves or ethnic economies

4. Production

- Ecology
- Technology
- Work
- Hunting-harvesting
- Primitive agriculture
- Breeders
- Technology and evolution

5. Distribution

- Commerce
 - Market
 - Multicenter economies
 - Primitive currency
6. Consumption
- The ostensible consumption
 - Habitus, taste and distinction

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Discussion of papers	20	0.8	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
External visit	5	0.2	5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14
Lectures (theory)	25	1	2, 12, 14, 17
Type: Supervised			
Optional essay (*under specific conditions)	5	0.2	11, 17
Practices and exercises	20	0.8	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12
Type: Autonomous			
Internet searching	25	1	3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16
Reading of materials and study	42	1.68	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17

The teaching methodology used in this course will involve:

1. Classroom practices: independent or group work on a specific topic.
2. Theoretical / practical contributions: an introduction by the teacher, with examples and discussions with the participants, and the formal presentation of a substantive topic of the syllabus by the students. The materials used in class are available on the Virtual Campus and on other websites managed by teachers.
3. Possible one-day visit (which coincides with the teaching schedule).

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.

Assessment

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Participation and interaction	10%	1	0.04	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16
Test 1	30%	1.5	0.06	2, 4, 15, 17
Test 2	30%	1.5	0.06	1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16
Work and continuous assessment (readings, exercises, team work, etc)	30%	4	0.16	1, 2, 4, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

The continuous evaluation will consist of the individual comment or small group of texts that will be distributed by the teachers in class to illustrate each of the topics of the program, with a minimum of 6, from which the average grade will be taken. These documents will be available on the virtual campus. These tasks must be done in class to be evaluated.

Only partial exams can be recovered, not the rest of the activities. To pass the subject, it is essential to pass the partial exams (1 and 2) with a minimum grade of 5. To participate in the recovery, students must have previously been evaluated [not necessarily approved] in a set of activities (minimum 2/3). It is essential that the student attends, at least, the first term, otherwise he would be considered NOT EVALUABLE.

The final grade will be communicated by Aula Moodle individually and a grade revision session will be scheduled, as well as a reevaluation date. Outside of these scheduled dates and communication channels, personal reviews will not be attended to or emails related to the evaluation will be answered. Doubts and complaints will be dealt with exclusively in the scheduled grade review sessions.

Personal cases that may influence the normal follow-up of the course by a particular student (illnesses, work, personal issues...) can be discussed with the faculty, who will try to offer a flexible option to the student if it is reasonably justified. Now, these questions will only be taken into account when they arise and are properly justified (with certificates) or when they are known in advance, they are discussed with the professor during the first academic month of the subject - not afterwards or at the last minute.

The works that are delivered will be done by hand exclusively through the option "Delivery of files" of the virtual campus that will have a period of validity.

In relation to plagiarism: if the student commits any irregularity that could lead to a significant variation in the grade of an evaluation act, this evaluation will be graded with 0, regardless of the disciplinary process that may be instituted. In the event that various irregularities occur in the evaluation acts of the same subject, the final grade of this subject will be "suspended". Also, when there is suspicion that the students have used AI to generate evaluable documents, the teacher reserves the right to evaluate these knowledge by an alternative way (for example, oral test).

Unique evaluation. People who use this evaluation modality by communicating it in the period allowed to do so, will have to do a) an exam of the subject syllabus (50%), b) present a comment on at least three texts commented on in class and available in the Virtual Campus with a maximum of 1,000 words (30%); and c) a summary of some of the chapters of the course manual with a maximum of 300 words (20%). The average of the three exercises will give the final grade.

Students will obtain a Not assessed/Not submitted course grade unless they have submitted more than 30% of the assessment items.

Bibliography

Compulsory textbook:

Molina, JL i Valenzuela, Hugo (2006) Invitación a la Antropología Económica. BCN: Bellaterra.

Handbooks

Narotzky, Susana (2005). Antropología económica. Barcelona: Melusina.

Plattner, S. (ed.) (1989). Economic Anthropology. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Introduction. Atrhopology and Economy

Dumont, Louis (1992). Homo aequalis. Génesis y apogeo de la ideología ec

onómica [Homo aqualis. Genèse et épanouissement de l'idéologie économique, 1977]. Madrid: Taurus.

Herskovits, Melville J. (1954). Antropología económica. Estudio de economía comparada. [Economic Anthropology. A Study in Comparative Economics (1952)]. México: F.C.E..

Barber, William J. (1992). Historia del pensamiento económico [A History of

Economic Thought, 1967]. Madrid: Alianza Universidad.

Formalism vs substantivism

Burling, Robbins (1976). "Teorías de maximización y el estudio de la antropología económica" en Godelier, M. (ed.), Antropología y economía. Barcelona: Anagrama.

Polanyi, Karl (1992). La gran transformación. Los orígenes políticos y económicos de nuestro tiempo [The Great Transformation. The Political and Economic Origins of our Time, 1944]. México: F.C.E.

Cultural materialism

Harris, Marvin (1982). El materialismo cultural como estrategia de investigación. Madrid: Alianza.

Rappaport, Roy A. (1987). Cerdos para los antepasados. El ritual en la ecología de un pueblo en Nueva Guinea [Pigs for the ancestors. Ritual in the ecology of a New Guinea people, 1968]. Madrid: Editorial Siglo XXI.

Marxism

Parte III de Godelier, M. (1976). Antropología y Economía. Barcelona: Anagrama.

Meillassoux, Claude (1987). Mujeres, graneros y capitales. Economía doméstica y capitalismo [Femmes, greniers, capitaux. 1975]. Madrid: Siglo XXI.

Development

Viola, Andreu (2000). Antropología del desarrollo. Teorías y estudios etnográficos en América Latina. Barcelona: Paidós

Informal Economy

Mingione, Enzo (1993). Las sociedades fragmentadas. Una sociología de la vida económica más allá del paradigma del mercado [Fragmented Societies. A Sociology of Economic Life beyond the Market Paradigm, 1991]. Madrid: Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad Social.

Pahl, R.E. (1991). Divisiones del trabajo [Divisions of Labour, 1984]. Madrid: Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad social.

Rifkin, Jeremy (1996). El fin del trabajo. Nuevas tecnologías contra puestos de trabajo: el nacimiento de una nueva era [The end of work. The decline of the global labor force and the dawn of the post-market era, 1994]. Barcelona: Paidós.

Production

Valdés del Toro (1976). "Ecología y trabajo, fiestas y dieta en un concejo del Occidente astur" en C. LISÓN (ed.), Temas de antropología española. Madrid: Akal.

Wolf, Eric R. (1978). Los campesinos [Peasants, 1971]. Barcelona: Labor.

Distribution

Malinowski, B. (1986). Els argonautes del Pacífic Occidental. Estudi sobre el tarannà emprenedor i aventurer dels indígenes dels arxipèlags de la Nova Guinea melànica [Argonauts of the Western Pacific. An Account of Native Enterprise and Adventure in the Archipelagoes of Melanesian New Guinea, 1922]. Barcelona: Edicions 62/Diputació de Barcelona.

Piddocke, Stuart (1981). "El sistema de potlatch de los kwakiutl del sur: una nueva perspectiva" [Southwestern Journal of Anthropology, 1960] en Llobera, J.R., Antropología Económica. Estudios Etnográficos. Barcelona: Anagrama.

Godelier, M. (1998). El enigma del don [L'énigme du don, 1996]. Barcelona: Paidós. Economies multicéntricas i la moneda primitiva Armstrong, W.E. (1981). "La moneda de la isla Rossel: un sistema monetario único" [The Economic Journal, vol. XXXIV, sept. 1924] en Llobera, J.R., Antropología Económica. Estudios Etnográficos. Barcelona: Anagrama.

Bohannan, Paul J. (1981). "El impacto de la moneda en una economía africana de subsistencia" [The Journal of Economic History, 19, dic. 1959] en Llobera, J.R., Antropología Económica. Estudios Etnográficos. Barcelona: Anagrama.

Einzing, Paul (1949). Primitive Money. In its Ethnological, Historical and Economic Aspects. Glasgow: Pergamon Press.

Moreno Feliu, Paz (1991). ¿El dinero? Cuadernos A de Antropología, 11. Anthropos.

Consumption

Veblen, Thorstein (1966). Teoría de la clase ociosa [1899]. F.C.E., México, 1966.

Fine, Ben (2002). The World of Consumption. The Material and Cultural Revisited. London & New York: Routledge.

Bourdieu, Pierre (1988). La distinción: criterio y bases sociales del gusto [La Distinction, 1979]. Taurus, Madrid, 1988

Additional references

Baba, Marietta (2006) "Anthropology and Business", In: H. James H.J. Birx (Ed.). *Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. Thousand Oaks. Sage. Pp.83-117.

Ho, Karen (2009). *Liquidated. An Ethnography of Wall Street*. Durham. Duke University Press.

Judy-Ballini, Monique and Bernard Juillerat (eds.) (2002). *People and Things: Social Mediations in Oceania*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.

Knowles, Caroline (2014). *Flip-Flop: A Journey Through Globalisation's Backroads*. Series Anthropology, Culture and Society. Pluto Press.

Strang, Veronica and Mark Busse (eds.) (2011.). *Ownership and Appropriation*. ASA Monographs, 47. New York: Berg.

Zelizer, Viviana (2007) *The Purchase of Intimacy*. Princeton University Press.

Zelizer, Viviana (1997) *The social meaning of money: pin money, paychecks, poor relief, and other currencies*. Princeton University Press.

Software

- Teams
- Word
- Excel
- Power Point

Language list

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan/Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan/Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed