

Regional Ethnology I

Code: 101242
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Social and Cultural Anthropology	OT	3
Social and Cultural Anthropology	OT	4

Contact

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Teaching groups languages

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

Prerequisites

Students must finished the 1st and 2nd years of a degree on Social and Cultural Anthropology

Objectives and Contextualisation

Deepening in the classic fields of Anthropology through the ethnographic case of the indigenous peoples of the lowlands of South America, to provide a holistic approach to cultural diversity, concrete examples of application of the theoretical approaches studied in the core subjects, and a deepening in emerging issues of the anthropology of indigenous peoples, focused on the professional development of students.

Students must recognize and identify the complex and changing reality of the indigenous peoples of the lowlands of South America, from the pre-colonial past to the current social situation, marked by globalization processes.

Students must be able to detect and analyze the central sociocultural dimensions, as well as the main changes and continuities of indigenous societies in the economic, ecological, political, social, and ritual spheres. From here on, case studies will be presented, and tools will be offered to analyze this area from a dynamic point of view, considering the permanent tension between the fight for the conservation of particularity and what makes it possible par excellence, the territory and language, as well as insertion in a global world.

Competences

Social and Cultural Anthropology

- 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.
- 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 knowledge of cultural variability and its genesis to avoid ethnocentric projections.
3. Apprehending cultural diversity through ethnography and critically assessing ethnographic materials as local context knowledge.
4. Assessing critically the explicit and implicit theoretical models in the ethnographic materials.
5. Assessing the positive and negative aspects of the dialectic between specific ethnographics and comparisons of transcultural scope.
6. Communicate using language that is not sexist or discriminatory.
7. Consider how gender stereotypes and roles impinge on the exercise of the profession.
8. Critically analyse the principles, values and procedures that govern the exercise of the profession.
9. Critically assessing ethnographic materials as a proposal for theoretical models.
10. Critically identify and compose a basic bibliography for the field of study.
11. Express ideas with a specific vocabulary appropriate to the discipline.
12. Identify main and secondary ideas and express them with linguistic correctness.
13. Identifying the sociocultural variability in specific ethnographic contexts.
14. Identifying the sociocultural variability through ethnographic texts and audiovisual resources.
15. Identifying the transcultural variability of economic, kinship, political, symbolic and cognitive, educational and gender systems as well as their corresponding anthropological theory.
16. Integrating holistically the progress from the classical fields of Anthropology.
17. Interpreting the cultural diversity through ethnography.
18. Knowing the acculturation effects of the colonial expansion.
19. Plan work effectively, individually or in groups, in order to fulfil the planned objectives.
20. Summarising acquired knowledge about the origin and transformations experienced in the several fields of anthropology.
21. 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

PART I: Regional Ethnology in the Amazon: Classic Fields

1. History, ethnic categories and cultural classifications
2. Ecology, economy, social and political organization
3. Person, body, shamanism and symbolism

PART II: Regional Ethnology in the Amazon: Emerging Fields

4. Museums, films and society
5. Collaborative Anthropology
6. Language, culture, indigenous forms of knowledge

7. Ethnoecology, Local technology, climatic change
8. Territory, nature rights, non contacted people
9. Peace, conflict resolution and mediation
10. Anthropology, development and tourism

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Discussion on emerging issues	3	0.12	8, 3, 6, 18, 11, 10, 13, 17, 20, 21
museum visit or similar	5	0.2	8, 2, 3, 18, 13, 17, 20
Teacher's master classes	30	1.2	8, 1, 2, 3, 9, 4, 5, 6, 18, 11, 10, 14, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20, 7, 21
Watching and discussing documentaries	3	0.12	2, 3, 4, 11, 14, 13, 15, 12, 17
Type: Supervised			
Tutorials for comprehension of texts and contents and preparation of written work	2	0.08	8, 2, 3, 9, 5, 11, 14, 12, 16, 19, 20, 21
Type: Autonomous			
Individual Study	20	0.8	8, 2, 3, 9, 4, 5, 10, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21
Reading texts and ethnographic documentation	25	1	1, 3, 9, 4, 5, 14, 13, 15, 12, 17, 19, 21
Writing papers	20	0.8	8, 1, 2, 3, 9, 4, 5, 6, 11, 10, 14, 15, 12, 17, 19, 20

Training activities and teaching methodology

Directed theoretical and practical classes: master classes with audio-visual support

Reading texts and analyzing audiovisual products with ethnographic content, including a visit to a museum or similar: reading texts and viewing ethnographic documentaries

Writing and presentation of works; individual study: writing of synthesis and analysis works based on a guide that will be published during the course in the Virtual Campus, and public presentation.

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

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Practical Essay	30%	10	0.4	2, 3, 9, 4, 6, 18, 11, 10, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20
Public presentation	10%	2	0.08	8, 3, 4, 6, 11, 10, 14, 12, 16, 19, 20, 21
Research Essay	30%	20	0.8	8, 2, 4, 5, 6, 18, 11, 10, 12, 16, 19, 20, 21
Synthesis and Reflexion Exam	30%	10	0.4	1, 2, 9, 4, 5, 6, 18, 11, 14, 13, 15, 12, 16, 19, 20, 7

The student will have to answer a written / oral essay, from of the contents of three thematic blocks, and from the

The student will have to deliver a practical work, after a visit to a museum, an interview to an indigenous leader, or equivalent, related to the cours subjects, with a weight of 30%

The student must submit a research essay on an emerging topic on the area from readings and other sources, with a weight of 30%

The student will participate in a presentation session, with a weight of 10%.

Compulsory, optional readings and work guidelines will be published on the Virtual Campus throughout the cours.

All papers must be submitted within the time limit set for evaluation.

In order to be assessed with continuous assessment, you must present 2/3 of the assessment activities.

Students who have failed one (or more) of the tests with a grade lower than 5, may recover it by submitting it again on the date set by the Faculty for re-evaluation.

Single assessment: Students who choose the single assessment must communicate it by the date proposed by the Faculty. The single assessment will consist of a written test based on the contents of three thematic blocks and the proposed readings, with a weight 30%. In addition, students must deliver a research paper related to the analysis of cultural areas and the knowledge taught in the classroom, with a weight of 30%; and a research on an emerging topic based on reading texts and other sources, which will be presented orally, with a weight of 40%. This written test, the oral test and the delivery of the work will be dated the first day after the end of teaching. The guideline will be published on the virtual campus.

-Recovery in the case of a single assessment: The same system of recovery will be appliedas for the continuous assessment - Review of the final qualification: The review of the final qualification follows the same procedure as for the continuous assessment.

Bibliography

Reference Books

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CLASTRES, Pierre 1986(1972) *Crónica de los indios Guayaquis*, Barcelona:Alta Fulla.

1981(1980) *Investigaciones en antropología política*, Barcelona:Gedisa.

CLUA, Montserrat, VENTURA, Montserrat, Josep Lluís Mateo (eds) 2022 *Áreas culturales. Antropología en un mundo de fronteras*, Barcelona: Bellaterra

CORREA, Francisco (ed) (?) *La selva humanizada. Ecología alternativa en el trópico húmedo colombiano*, Bogotá: instituto Colombiano de Antropología / FondoFEN de Colombia / Fondo Editorial CEREC.

DECLARACIÓ DE LES NACIONS UNIDES SOBRE ELS DRETS DELS POBLES INDÍGENES
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HALBMAYER, Ernst (ed.) 2020 *Amerindian Socio-cosmologies between the Andes, Amazonia and Mesoamerica*, London & New York: Routledge.

KENSINGER, Kenneth M. (ed) 1984 *Marriage Practices in Lowland South America*, Urbana & Chicago: University of Illinois Press.

KOHN, Eduardo 2021 [2013] *Cómo piensan los bosques. Hacia una antropología más allá de lo humano*, Quito: Abya-Yala.

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- VENTURA I OLLER, Montserrat 2009 *Identité, cosmologie et chamanisme des Tsachila de l'Équateur. À la croisée des chemins*, Paris: L'Harmattan.
- VIVEIROS DE CASTRO, Eduardo 1993 *From the Enemy's Point of View. Humanity and Divinity in an Amazonian Society*, Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press.
- A list of texts by thematic blocks will be delivered at the beginning of the course, with the specific and compulsory bibliography.

Software

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

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