UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Seminar on Applications of Anthropology and Analysis of Policies of Social Intervention

Code: 101255
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

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

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the end of this document.

Prerequisites

There is no prior requirement but enrolling in this seminar is recommended after Anthropological Analysis of the Contemporary World.

Objectives and Contextualisation

Contextualization:

This seminar is devoted to analyse social intervention of public policies and different approaches developed by social and cultural anthropology. It focuses on policies aimed at social problems and those social groups and areas affected by them at both global and local levels.

Training goals:

Learning how to elaborate and carry out project proposals related to social problems by applying the knowledge and methods of social and cultural anthropology to the diagnosis, design, implementation and assessment of public policies in different areas.

Understanding the theoretical and methodological debates on the relationship between social and cultural anthropology and public policies based on readings, audio-visual material and case studies through a PBL methodology.

Competences

Social and Cultural Anthropology

- Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
- Assessing in theoretical, methodological and ethical terms the anthropology investigations aimed to basic objectives or oriented to intervention.
- Assessing the effects of the implementation of expert social intervention models in the target groups.
- 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.
- Designing a project adapted to the petitioner's request and to the characteristics and needs of the targeted populations.
- Intervening in different contexts and areas of implementation of Anthropology (intercultural relations, development and cooperation, kinship, health, education, social use of space and other intervention areas).
- 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 communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- 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.

Learning Outcomes

1. Ability to maintain an appropriate conversation.
2. Applying the knowledge of cultural variability and its genesis to avoid ethnocentric projections.
3. Assess the reliability of sources, select important data and cross-check information.
4. Assessing the sociocultural adjustment of the survey questionnaires in small and large-scale investigations.
5. Being capable of carrying out ethnographic designs corresponding to planned changes, and intermediate and final evaluation designs.
6. Carry out ethical use of the information especially when it is of a personal nature.
7. Carrying out an individual work that specifies the work plan and timing of activities.
8. Carrying out oral presentations using appropriate academic vocabulary and style.
9. Differentiating specific methodological aspects of applied researches.
10. Effectively expressing themselves and applying the argumentative and textual processes of formal and scientific texts.
11. Explain the explicit or implicit code of practice of one's own area of knowledge.
12. Express ideas with a specific vocabulary appropriate to the discipline.
13. Identify situations that require improvement or change.
14. Identifying the ethical aspects of an intervention.
15. Knowing and distinguishing the intervention design types, their potentiality, limitations and biases.

16. Knowing and implementing the professional involvement in interventions into different contexts and areas of implementation of Anthropology within the field between culture and society.
17. Knowing and understanding the foundations for the implementation of Anthropology into social and environmental interventions.
18. Knowing some practical intervention cases.
19. Plan work effectively, individually or in groups, in order to fulfil the planned objectives.
20. Proponer proyectos y acciones que estén de acuerdo con los principios de responsabilidad ética y de respeto por los derechos y deberes fundamentales, la diversidad y los valores democráticos.
21. Propose projects and actions that incorporate the gender perspective.
22. Recognising the ethical implications of the ethnological relationships established during the fieldwork internship.
23. Recognising the ethical implications of the investigations aimed at intervention.
24. Recognising the importance of the internal inequality systems in the intervention processes.
25. Reconciling the Administration demands and those from the affected populations in the intervention projects.
26. Reconciling the targeted population's demands and needs.
27. Solving problems autonomously.
28. Submitting works in accordance with both individual and small group demands and personal styles.
29. Summarizing the acquired knowledge about the relationship between nature, culture and society.

Content

The seminar has two cross-cutting modules and three thematic modules:

1. From the study of social problems to the application of anthropology to public policies: diversity, inequality and social justice. Theories of practice.

2. Methodologies of intervention and theory of change: diagnosis, design, implementation and evaluation.

3. Migration, mobility and integration policies. Challenges for social cohesion and belonging in plural societies.

4. Inter-group conflict, mediation and conflict resolution. Challenges and experiences at global and local levels.

5. Gender regimes and equality policies. General and specific challenges to the struggle against discrimination and violence against women in contemporary societies.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Master class and invited talks	30	1.2	2, 4, 25, 26, 18, 17, 15, 16, 9, 14, 24, 23, 22, 29
Viewing of documentaries and other in class activities	20	0.8	2, 4, 25, 26, 18, 17, 15, 16, 9, 14, 24, 23, 22, 5, 29
Type: Supervised			
Monitoring preparation of written test, individual and group monitoring	2	0.08	2, 4, 25, 26, 18, 17, 15, 16, 9, 7, 10, 8, 14, 1, 28, 24, 23, 22, 27, 5, 29
Type: Autonomous			

	Hours	ECTS	
Study materials, preparation of written test	16	0.64	2, 4, 25, 26, 18, 17, 15, 16, 9, 14, 24, 23, 22, 27, 5, 29
Study materials, preparation of written test	18	0.72	2, 4, 25, 26, 18, 17, 15, 16, 9, 7, 14, 24, 23, 22, 27, 5, 29

The student is the main agent in the teaching-learning process, and based on this principle, a methodology focused on continuous work has been designed. Therefore, attendance is important in this course. Following the course requires active engagement in learning and responsibility throughout the entire process.

The Virtual Campus (VC) is the official communication space for the course. It is the student's responsibility to access the VC and keep their email profile updated in order to stay informed of news and information posted throughout the course.

The methodology involves continuous work through:

- Personal study and work: information research, extending the syllabus, comprehensive reading of mandatory texts, creating outlines, concept maps, and summaries of the materials covered inside and outside the classroom.

- Theoretical and practical classes led by the professor: lectures, flipped classroom format, and use of audiovisual materials.

- Text discussion seminars: sessions for debating mandatory readings with individual and/or group participation.

- Preparation and presentation of assignments: documentation search; writing, drafting, and presenting assignments; public presentation of the work.

TUTORIALS: Student support through office (or virtual, in justified and previously agreed cases) tutorials, individually or in groups. The office hours will be communicated by the professor on the first day of class and will also be available on the VC.

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 in group discussion. Debate Forum	20%	14	0.56	2, 4, 25, 26, 18, 17, 15, 16, 9, 11, 12, 10, 8, 14, 1, 19, 24, 23, 22, 5, 29, 3
Submission of essays	40%	25	1	2, 4, 25, 26, 18, 17, 15, 16, 9, 7, 12, 10, 8, 6, 14, 28, 20, 21, 24, 23, 22, 27, 5, 29
Written test and text analysis	40%	25	1	2, 4, 25, 26, 18, 17, 15, 16, 9, 7, 12, 10, 14, 13, 19, 28, 24, 23, 22, 27, 5, 29

The continuous assessment system consists of three types of activities:

Activity 1) Four individual tests (of the same format as the classroom exercises), one for each thematic module. Value: 40% of the final mark.

Activity 2) A team project of diagnostic exploration and intervention proposal on one of the topics proposed by the teacher and oral presentation of the work. Evaluation with a specific rubric given to the students with the aim of improving their weak points. Value: 40% of the final mark.

Activity 3) Five classroom exercises in pairs/groups. Reading and analysis of texts related to the thematic blogs, and oral presentation of the results (forum-debate). Value: 20% of the final mark.

The leading role in the teaching-learning process is played by the students and under this premise a methodology based on continuous work has been designed, and therefore attendance is important in this subject.

At the time of each evaluation activity, the teacher will inform the students (Moodle) of the procedure and the date of revision of the grades.

Recovery

In order to participate in the retake, students must have been previously assessed in a set of activities whose weight is equivalent to a minimum of 2/3 of the total grade.

If they do not pass, the individual work and the team project can be reassessed following the indications of the correction.

Single assessment:
This course does not provide for a single assessment system.

Plagiarism or fraudulent conduct:
If a student engages in any irregularity that could significantly alter the grade of an assessment activity, that activity will be graded with a 0, regardless of any disciplinary proceedings that may follow. If multiple irregularities occur in the assessment activities of the same course, the final grade for the course will be 0.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI):
Restricted use: For this course, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is permitted exclusively for support tasks, such as literature or information searches, text corrections, or translations. The student must clearly identify which parts were generated using such technology, specify the tools used, and include a critical reflection on how these tools influenced both the process and the final result of the activity. Lack of transparency in the use of AI in this evaluable activity will be considered a breach of academic integrity and may result in partial or total penalization of the activity's grade, or more serious sanctions in severe cases.

Bibliography

GENERAL REFERENCIES (common to the syllabus of Social Intervention: specific readings will be provided for each section)

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Software

No required.

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
(SEM) Seminars	11	Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed
(SEM) Seminars	12	Catalan/Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan/Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed