Cultural Anthropology

Leonardo Piasere

**EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES.**

**Knowledge and capacity to understand**

At the end of the course, the student should:

* have a basic knowledge of the fundamentals of socio-cultural anthropology;
* have a basic knowledge of the themes and main methods;
* have a basic knowledge of the main anthropological thoughts about the globalization phenomenon;
* have a basic knowledge of the fundamental principles that anthropological knowledge can bring to the study of emergency governance and especially of contemporary migrations.

**Knowledge and capacity to apply understanding**

At the end of the course, the student should be able to:

* propose anthropological reflections in terms of globalization phenomena;
* interpret a state of crisis, particularly in relation to migrations, with an anthropological-cultural angle;
* apply the method of cultural relativism.

**Independent judgment**

At the end of the course, the students will have acquired:

- the capacity to critically analyze situations in which there is a considerable presence of culturally diverse people;

- the capacity to critically interpret behaviours based on diverse or opposing cosmologies.

**Communication skills**

At the end of the course, the students should be able to:

* consciously use specific terms relating to anthropological-cultural themes;
* speak precisely about the theme of cultural alterity;
* consciously use specific anthropological-cultural terms relating to migratory themes.

**Capacity to learn**

At the end of the course, the students should be able to:

- identify and analyze the way in which the theme of cultural diversity is dealt with in the principal phenomena linked to globalization;

- find the necessary sources to develop an interdisciplinary cultural anthropology and political-juridical study analysis modality on crisis states.

**CONTENT**

1. Outlines of general anthropology:

- What the anthropological perspective is;

- The anthropological concept of culture and cultural relativism;

- Ethnographic research;

- The concept of cosmology or vision of the world: cultural symbols and metaphors;

- Relatedness systems: comparisons between European and non-European societies;

- Matrimonial and family structures: comparisons between European and non-European societies;

- Anthropology of inequalities: the cultural construction of genus, class, caste, "race", ethnicity, nationalism;

- Cultural imperialism and cultural hybridization;

- The debate on human rights and cultural diversity;

2. Anthropology of migrations:

- Migration cultures;

- Transit migrations;

- Concepts of "frontier" and "boundaries" in anthropology;

- Diasporas, refugees, asylum seekers and asylum policies;

- Anthropology of work and migrations;

- Anthropology of religion and migrations;

- Multi-culturalism policies;

- Racism, cultural integralism and xenophobia;

- Return migrations and co-development practices.

**Texts**

- E. A. Schultz and R. H. Lavenda, *Antropologia culturale,* Zanichelli, Bologna, 2015 (only the third Italian edition). Only chapters I, II, III, VII, X, XI, XII, XIV.  
  
B. Riccio (edited by), *Antropologia e migrazioni*, Rome, CISU, 2014. Except chapters VIII, XII, XV, XVI.

**Requirements**

- basic knowledge of contemporary history;

- basic knowledge of political geography.

**Teaching methods**

Lectures with inter-active exchanges with the students.

**Learning assessment method**

Learning levels will be assessed by an oral test. Students must be able to demonstrate:

* to have understood the basic elements of socio-cultural anthropology;
* to know the specific concepts of anthropology of migrations;
* to be able to express their own reasoning in a precise manner, identifying and selecting the essential elements.