

Course: GS-18 SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY (45 hours)

Prof.: Dr. Francisco J. Cuberos Gallardo (fcuberos@us.es)

Learning Objectives

1. 1. Introduce students to the main subject areas and basic concepts of Social Anthropology.
2. 2. Foster students' reflective and critical thinking skills in order to understand the key features of different sociocultural systems, including their own.
3. 3. Familiarize students with the methodology of Social Anthropology, providing them with the tools to understand the need for interdisciplinary work in the field of the Social Sciences.
4. 4. Uncover the foundations upon which racist, xenophobic, sexist, classist, and exclusionary discourses and practices are constructed.

Methodology

The topics included in the course syllabus will be addressed in class through a combination of lectures delivered by the professor and the presentation and analysis of audiovisual materials.

Course Content

TOPIC I. Anthropology in the Context of the Social Sciences

The subject matter of anthropology. Culture and its different levels. Characteristics of culture. Culture as a system: components and levels. The culture/nature debate. History and Culture. The anthropological method. The Emic–Etic approaches.

TOPIC II. Eating and Making a Living

Economy, society and culture. The appropriation of the environment. The environment as a determining factor. Hunting and gathering, horticultural, agricultural and industrial societies. Work and culture.

TOPIC III. Kinship and Sociability

Locating the individual: kinship. Types of family. Marriage and descent. Beyond

kinship: sociability and associational life.

TOPIC IV. Politics: Power and Social Control

Politics, power, authority and leadership. Law. Forms of political organization: Bands, Tribes, Chiefdoms and the State.

TOPIC V. What Do We Believe?

Explaining the reality in which we live: discourses of representation. Anthropological perspectives on magic, religion and science. Myths and rituals.

Basic Recommended Bibliography:

Barth, F. (1969). "Introduction". En F. Barth (ed.), *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries: The Social Organization of Culture Difference* (pp. 9–38). Oslo: Universitetsforlaget.

Harris, M. (1971). *Culture, Man, and Nature: An Introduction to General Anthropology*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell.

Kottak, C.P. (1991) *Cultural Anthropology*. New York: Mc Graw Hill.

Assessment criteria

Two midterm examinations: 50%

Thematic or literature-based essay: 30%

Attendance and class participation: 20%