



UNIWERSYTET
IM. ADAMA MICKIEWICZA
W POZNANIU

Current Anthropological Theory

Educational subject description sheet

Basic information

Study programme Etnologia (Cultural Differences and Transnational Processes) Speciality - Organizational unit Faculty of Anthropology and Cultural Studies Study level Second-cycle programme Study form Full-time Education profile General academic		Didactic cycle 2024/25 Subject code 20ETES.22N.10216.24 Lecture languages English Course type Obligatory Block Subjects not assigned
Subject coordinator	Małgorzata Kowalska	
Lecturer	Małgorzata Kowalska	
Period Semester 2	Activities and hours • Lecture: 30, Exam	Number of ECTS points 5

Goals

Code	Goal
C1	This course examines both the classic works of key names in the world anthropological traditions, and the current discussion on the methods, goals and future of the discipline. Its main aim is to introduce the students to the key theoretical problems addressed by anthropology; its most recent reactions to local and global socioeconomic and political currents; and to the ongoing debates on the logic of the discipline.

Subject learning outcomes

Code	Outcomes in terms of	Learning outcomes	Examination methods
Knowledge - Student:			
W1	Have knowledge of the main concepts, theoretical perspectives and debates in current anthropology	ETE_K2_W01, ETE_K2_W02, ETE_K2_W03, ETE_K2_W04, ETE_K2_W06, ETE_K2_W07	Essay
Skills - Student:			
U1	Develop ability to engage with academic literature and scholarly debates in the field	ETE_K2_U01, ETE_K2_U03, ETE_K2_U04, ETE_K2_U05	Essay, Multimedia presentation
U2	Practice communication and analytical skills while engaging in class discussions and writing a final paper	ETE_K2_U01, ETE_K2_U02, ETE_K2_U03, ETE_K2_U05, ETE_K2_U06, ETE_K2_U08, ETE_K2_U09	Essay, Multimedia presentation
Social competences - Student:			
K1	Have knowledge of both the diversity of approaches and the universality of problems in current anthropological discussions	ETE_K2_K01, ETE_K2_K07, ETE_K2_K08, ETE_K2_K10	Essay

Study content

No.	Course content	Subject learning outcomes	Activities
1.	Key theoretical approaches in current anthropology	W1, U1, K1	Lecture
2.	Major problems in ethnographic studies and writing. Challenges within and beyond the field	W1, U1, U2, K1	Lecture
3.	Debates on the prerequisites for ethnographic study. The future of anthropology	W1, U1, U2, K1	Lecture

Additional information

Activities	Teaching and learning methods and activities
Lecture	Conversation lecture, Discussion, Work with text

Activities	Credit conditions
Lecture	<p>Students should 1) participate in class discussion of the readings, 2) prepare one presentation on a selected reading in class and 3) write a final essay on the topic agreed with the teacher. For a grade 5, students should actively participate in class discussion, prepare a fine presentation in class and write an above-average final essay.</p> <p>To get a 4+, students should actively participate in class discussion, prepare a good presentation in class and write a very good final essay. Minor errors are acceptable.</p> <p>For a grade 4, students should participate in class discussion, prepare a good presentation and a good final essay. Some minor errors and mistakes are acceptable.</p> <p>To achieve a grade 3+ or 3, students should try to participate in class discussion, prepare a satisfactory presentation in class and a satisfactory final essay. Some errors or omissions are acceptable.</p> <p>A student will fail the course if he/she does not make an effort to read the readings and therefore to participate in class discussion, if s/he does not prepare a multimedia presentation and/or if he/she does not deliver the final essay.</p>

Literature

Obligatory

1. 2. Trouillot, M-R. (1991) 'Anthropology and the savage slot: The poetics and politics of otherness' in Fox, R. (ed.) Recapturing Anthropology Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research, 17-44
2. 3-4. Robbins, J. (2013) 'Beyond the Suffering Subject: Toward an Anthropology of the Good' in Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (N.S.) 19, 447-462
3. 5-6. Rosaldo, R. (1993 [1989]) 'Introduction: Grief and a Headhunter's Rage' in Culture and Truth: The Remaking of Social Analysis Boston: Beacon Press; London: Taylor & Francis Favret-Saada, J. (2012) 'Death at your heels. When ethnographic writing propagates the force of witchcraft' & 'Being affected' in HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory 2 (1), 45-53 & 435-45
4. 7-8. Ingold, T (2014) 'That's enough about ethnography' in HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory 4 (1): 383-395 Ingold, T. (2017) 'Anthropology contra ethnography' in HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory 7 (1): 21-26 Miller, D. (2017) 'Anthropology is the discipline but the goal is ethnography' in HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory 7 (1): 27-31
5. 9-13. Kohn, E. (2007) 'How dogs dream: Amazonian natures and the politics of transspecies Engagement' in American Ethnologist, Vol. 34, No. 1, 3-24 Ingold, T. (2013) Anthropology Beyond Humanity, Edward Westermarck Memorial Lecture, Suomen Antropologi: Journal of the Finnish Anthropological Society 38 (3), 5-23 Tsing, A. (2010) Arts of Inclusion, or How to Love a Mushroom, Mānoa, Vol. 22, No. 2, Wilde Hearts: Literature, Ecology, and Inclusion.
6. 14-15. Rose, D.B. (2017) Shimmer: When All You Love is Being Trashed. in A. Tsing, H. A. Swanson, E. Gan, N. Bubandt (eds.) Arts of Living on a Damaged Planet. Ghosts and Monsters of the Anthropocene, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, G51-G63 Chakrabarty, D. (2017) 'The Politics of the Climate Change is More Important than the Politics of Capitalism' in: Theory, Culture & Society Vol. 34 (2-3) 25-3
7. Scheper-Hughes, N. (1995) 'The Primacy of the Ethical: Propositions for a Militant Anthropology' Current Anthropology 36, no. 3: 409-440.
8. Fortun, K (2012) 'Ethnography in Late Industrialism' in Cultural Anthropology, vol. 27, nr 3, 446-464.

Optional

1. Rosaldo R. (1989) 'Imperialist Nostalgia' in Culture & Truth. The Remaking of Social Analysis, Boston: Beacon Press, 68-87
2. Ortner, S. (1984) 'Theory in Anthropology Since the Sixties' in Comparative Studies in Society and History, Vol. 26, No. 1, 126-66
3. Ortner S. B. (2016) 'Dark anthropology and its others: Theory since the eighties', in HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory Vol 6, No. 1, 47-73 Laidlaw J. (2016) 'Through a glass, darkly' in HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory Vol 6, No. 2, 17-24 Ortner S. B. (2016) 'Historical contexts, internal debates, and ethical practice' in HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory Vol 6, No. 2, 29-39
4. TallBear, K. (2011) Why Interspecies Thinking Needs Indigenous Standpoints. Fieldsights, November 18. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/why-interspecies-thinking-needs-indigenous-standpoints> Kirksey, S. E., Helmreich S. (2010) 'The Emergence of Multispecies Ethnography' in Cultural Anthropology 25(4) 545-576 Van Dooren, T., Kirksey, E., Münster, U. (2016) 'Multispecies Studies: Cultivating Arts of Attentiveness' in Environmental Humanities 8 (1): 1-23
5. Tsing, A. L. (2015) The Mushroom at the End of the World. On the Possibility of Life in the Capitalist Ruins. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press
6. Tsing, A.L., Swanson, H.A., Gan, E., Bubandt, N. (2017) Arts of Living on a Damaged Planet. Ghosts and Monsters of the Anthropocene, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press
7. Haraway, D. (2016) Staying with the Trouble. Making Kin in the Chthulucene. Durham and London: Duke University Press
8. Latour, B. (2014) Anthropology at the Time of the Anthropocene - a personal view of what is to be studied Distinguished lecture, American Association of Anthropologists, Washington December 2014

Calculation of ECTS points

Activities	Activity hours*
Lecture	30

Reading the indicated literature	80
Preparation for classes	10
Preparation for the assessment	25
Student workload	Hours 145
Number of ECTS points	ECTS 5

* academic hour = 45 minutes

Efekty uczenia się dla kierunku

Kod	Treść
ETE_K2_K01	The graduate is ready to critically develop interests and professional competences throughout life
ETE_K2_K07	The graduate is ready to creatively and consciously use knowledge about the complexity of cultural phenomena, the organization and functioning of culture, the significance of its individual elements, and the historical variability of forms as well as the ethnocultural diversity of the world
ETE_K2_K08	The graduate is ready to engage responsibly, tolerantly, and understandingly in favor of other cultures
ETE_K2_K10	The graduate is ready to thoroughly observe and identify the most important moral, political, social, and economic problems of the contemporary world
ETE_K2_U01	The graduate can search, analyze, evaluate, select, and integrate new information using various sources and interpretation methods, and formulate critical judgments based on this
ETE_K2_U02	The graduate can independently carry out complex research tasks, including analyzing other authors' works, synthesizing various ideas and viewpoints, selecting methods and constructing research tools, and preparing and presenting results in the field of ethnology/cultural anthropology
ETE_K2_U03	The graduate can independently and in a team, including leading its work, acquire knowledge and enhance research skills, as well as undertake independent actions aimed at lifelong development of their abilities and interests in a critical, creative, entrepreneurial, and ethical manner
ETE_K2_U04	The graduate can integrate knowledge from various disciplines in the field of humanities and social sciences and apply it in situations related to the profession of an ethnologist/cultural anthropologist
ETE_K2_U05	The graduate can conduct in-depth and critical analysis and interpretation of various types of cultural products and fields, using original approaches that consider the latest trends in ethnology/cultural anthropology and new achievements in the humanities and social sciences
ETE_K2_U06	The graduate can substantiate arguments, formulate conclusions, and create synthetic summaries of selected problems using their own views and the views of other authors
ETE_K2_U08	The graduate can competently prepare complex written works in the field of ethnology/cultural anthropology
ETE_K2_U09	The graduate can competently prepare complex presentations on issues of interest in ethnology/cultural anthropology or in areas at the intersection of various scientific disciplines
ETE_K2_W01	The graduate knows and understands in-depth subject matter and methodology of ethnology/cultural anthropology and its creative applications in professional activities
ETE_K2_W02	The graduate knows and understands in depth the specialized terminology of ethnology/cultural anthropology as well as the terminology appropriate for disciplines related to ethnology/cultural anthropology
ETE_K2_W03	The graduate knows and understands in-depth theoretical and methodological knowledge in the field of ethnology/cultural anthropology
ETE_K2_W04	The graduate knows and understands the principles of anthropological interpretation of cultural phenomena in a systematic and in-depth manner
ETE_K2_W06	The graduate knows and understands in-depth contemporary achievements, centers, and research schools covering selected areas of ethnology/cultural anthropology and related sciences
ETE_K2_W07	The graduate knows and understands specialized methods of analysis, interpretation, evaluation, and problematization characteristic of selected traditions, theories, and research schools in the field of ethnology/cultural anthropology and related sciences