

26<sup>st</sup> September 2024

**Welcome to the course!**

Who are we?

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Who are you? (Introduce yourselves)

What do you expect to learn from this course?

# What is anthropology?

Let's try to figure out a common starting point...

Concept map: try to indicate to which concepts “**anthropology**” is related to and how...

The object of anthropology is the ἄνθρωπος, “antropos”, the “human”

The frontiers of the “human” are ambiguous and flexible (diachronically and synchronically)

The “human” is, for its quality, a phenomenon that can (should) be observed via diversified lenses

The “human”, so, is qualitatively “undisciplined” (ontologically and epistemologically)

What are we going to do in this course?

As the name describes: an introduction to anthropology (socio-cultural and biological)

*And:* not a specific relation but a range of possible relations

Suggested to read for today:

Boas, Franz. 1904. The history of anthropology. *Science* 20(512): 513–524.

*“anthropologists occupy themselves with problems relating to the physical and mental life of mankind as found in varying forms of society” (: 513)*

*“two distinct methods of research and aims of investigation: the one, the historical method [...] the other, the generalizing method” (:514)*

*“has outgrown the systematizing period and is just now entering the empirical revision of its theories” (: 522)*

*“Biological history of mankind in all its varieties; linguistics applied to people without written languages; the ethnology of people without historic records, and prehistoric archeology” (: 523)*

# Course objectives

The course Introduction to Anthropology will offer students a concise introduction to anthropological topics from all(?) fields of the anthropological research.



## Learning outcomes

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

- 1) relay basic information on history of anthropology;
- 2) define its current division and disciplines;
- 3) report on complexity of understanding and investigating humans;
- 4) interpret the holistic biological-socio-cultural notion of anthropology;
- 5) explain the professional use of anthropology and related areas.

## **Course contents:**

26<sup>st</sup> September: introduction

03<sup>rd</sup> October: main topics and debates in the history and development of socio-cultural anthropology in a global perspective with focus on “ethnography”

10<sup>th</sup> October: main topics and debates in the history and development of biological anthropology in a global perspective

## **Course contents:**

17<sup>th</sup> October: The lecture will introduce the relations anthropology had with language and with human rights, with Marco Tromboni and Mariana Possas from federal University of Bahia (Brazil).

24<sup>th</sup> October: The lecture will introduce the debates about “ontology” in anthropology and philosophy, with Julia Turska from Wageningen University (Holland).

## **Course contents:**

31<sup>st</sup> October: main topics and debates in the history and development of socio-cultural anthropology in Czech Republic

07<sup>th</sup> November: lecture with Marcelo Moura Melo from Federal University of Bahia (Brazil).

## **Course contents:**

14<sup>th</sup> November: The lecture will introduce the anthropology of people, primates and parasites, with Kelly Sambucci and Bara Cervena from the Masaryk University (Czech Republic).

21<sup>st</sup> November: The lecture introduce the anthropology of Indigenous people in Brazil with Rochelle Foltram from Federal University of São Carlos (Brazil).

## **Course contents:**

28<sup>th</sup> November: The lecture will introduce the anthropology of African traditional religions and neo pentecostal churches, with Fernando Florencio from the University of Coimbra (Portugal).

07<sup>th</sup> December: The lecture will present an overview of the main topics and debates in the history and development of biological anthropology in the Czech Republic.

## **Course contents:**

12<sup>th</sup> December: The lecture will present an overview of some contemporary topics, controversies, and debates in biological anthropology in a global perspective.

19<sup>th</sup> December: The lecture will be dedicated to the application of the final examination.

## **Planned learning activities and teaching methods**

The course will be organised in a participative and collaborative modality and it will mobilise diverse teaching-learning strategies:

- 1) studying and discussing bibliographic materials suggested in advance (already in the interactive syllabus);
- 2) the participation of guests presenting (in presence and/or online) specific topics;
- 3) seminars for a the collective and critical reflection on core aspects of the controversies in socio-cultural and biological anthropology.



## **Assessment methods**

The grade will be composed of two evaluations:

- 1) the active participation in the course's meetings (30%);
- 2) a written final test (70%) composed of 6 questions from which each participant will be asked to choose 4. The questions will cover all the discussions of the semester and the recommended bibliographical materials. The first examination date will be the 19th December with the possibility to recuperate it in January 2024.

For the next meeting please read:

Howell, Signe. 2017. Two or three things I love about ethnography. *Hau: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 7(1): 15-20. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.14318/hau7.1.004>  
(Available on the interactive syllabus)

In case of any doubt:

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Or zaklepat na dveře kanceláře...