

**Course title:**

Bi7851 Anthropology of Ethnicity

**Extent and Intensity:**

13 weeks, one lecture per week (2 hours)

**Teacher(s):**

Paride Bollettin, MSc., Ph.D.

prof. PhDr. Jaroslav Malina, DrSc.

RNDr. Robin Pěnička, Ph.D.

**Prerequisites and co-requisites**

No pre-requisites. The course is suitable both for those who have a prior background in anthropology (social and biological) and for those who have experience in related disciplines who wish to improve their knowledge of the diversity of human experiences.

**Field of study / plans the course is directly associated with**

Anthropology

**Course objectives**

The course aims at introducing lived experiences of ethnicity from ethnographic perspectives for developing a critical reflection on diachronic and synchronic human variability and self-identification.

**Learning outcomes**

Through the course, participants will increase their skills in critically approaching human variability from an anthropological perspective. Specifically, the participants will deepen:

- 1) the knowledge of historical and contemporary debates on the concept of ethnicity and related controversies;
- 2) the ability to describe, interpret and discuss the variability of humanity in relation with both historical and contemporary dimensions;
- 3) a critical reflection on situated experiences involving the topics of “ethnicity” and “identity” in connection with the self-identification in the global panorama, and specially in relation with educational contexts.

**Course contents:****25<sup>th</sup> September - Week 1**

This week will be dedicated to a general overview of the course, at the explanation of the tasks, at personal introduction of participants, at discussion of evaluation

format, and at the definition of the topics for the semester works. Additionally, it will be requested a personal introduction of all the participants.

Recommended readings:

Bauman, Zygmunt. 2001. Identity in the globalizing world. *Social Anthropology* 9(2): 121-129. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S096402820100009X>

### **02<sup>th</sup> October - Week 2**

The lectures will introduce some concepts related with the discussions about ethnicity, with special attention to some key ideas such as boundaries, fluidity, hybridity, politics of recognition, and integration.

Recommended readings:

Barth, Fredrik. 1969. Introduction. In Fredrik. Barth (Ed.). *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries: The Social Organization of Culture Difference*, pp. 09–38. Bergen: Universitetsforlaget.

### **09<sup>th</sup> October - Week 3**

We will receive as a guest lecturer Edward Bantu from Kabale University (Uganda), who will talk about ethnic diversity in Uganda.

### **16<sup>th</sup> October - Week 4**

The lecture will focus on the concept of “self-identification” and “ethnocentrism” as a key element for the current controversies and politics about ethnicity and identity.

Recommended readings:

Lévi-Strauss, Claude. 1973. Race and History. In *Structural anthropology. Vol. 2*, pp. 324-362. New York: Basic Books.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> October - Week 5**

The lecture will focus on ethnicity and historical migrations in Europe. Can we talk about ethnicities in prehistoric times? Where were the nations of Celts, Germanic people, Romans and Slavs born? We will try to do that in this lecture

Recommended readings:

McSparron, Cormac et al. 2020. Migration, Group Agency, and Archaeology: A New Theoretical Model. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 24: 219-232. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10761-019-00519-6>

### **30<sup>th</sup> October - Week 6**

The lecture will be focused on ethnic groups in the Czech republic. Are we “one-ethnic” nation or a “colourful” nation? We will discuss the self-identification and position of minorities and folk-groups in the Czech republic.

Recommended readings:

Lupač, Petr. 2011. Postoje Čechů k etnickým minoritám a jejich právům: otázka etnické integrace jako problem etnické exluze. *Acta Universitatis Carolinae. Philosophica et Historica 2/Studia Sociologica XVII*: 53-67. DOI: <https://karolinum.cz/data/clanek/4641/PheH 2 2011 04 Lupac.pdf>

### **06<sup>th</sup> November - Week 7**

We will receive a visiting professor Marcelo Moura Melo from the Federal University of Bahia (Brazil).

### **13<sup>th</sup> November - Week 8**

We will receive as a guest lecturer Donatella Schmidt from the University of Padova (Italy), who will talk about the relation between identity and food.

### **20<sup>th</sup> November - Week 9**

Everyone is asked to bring in the lecture a visual short presentation (photographs, videos, drawings, collages, etc.) of a “traditional” food, with a description of the receipt. The task is aimed at reflecting on both the connection between visual, taste, and other sensorial experiences and the visibility of ethnicity.

### **27<sup>th</sup> November - Week 10**

We will receive as guest lecturer Fernando Florencio from the University of Coimbra (Brazil), who will introduce the topic of African ethnicities and the civil war in Moçambique.

### **04<sup>th</sup> December - Week 11**

The lecture will be dedicated to “ethno-futurism”. Everyone will select a chapter from the book “The Routledge Handbook of CoFuturisms” (Edited by Taryne Jade Taylor, Isiah Lavender III, Grace L. Dillon, and Bodhisattva Chattopadhyay, London, 2024).

### **11<sup>th</sup> December - Week 12**

Everyone is asked to visit the Roma museum in Brno and to produce a short (half-one page) report on the activity.

### **18th December - Week 13**

The lecture will be dedicated to the presentations of the final works and to develop a collective evaluation of the course.

### **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;
- 2) the participation of guests presenting (in presence and/or online) specific case study and topics;
- 3) the individual production of a critical essay on core aspects of the controversies about the topics of “ethnicity” and “identity” framed in the perspective of “futurism” from Czech.

### **Assessment methods**

The assessment will be a self-evaluation\*, focused on two main aspects:

- 1) the active participation in the course’s meetings (30%);
- 2) a written final essay (70%)\*\*.

The final essay is expected to briefly introduce and discuss **a case study of students’ choice**. In the last lecture, we will review the proposed case studies, and you should send the final essays to [penicka@sci.muni.cz](mailto:penicka@sci.muni.cz) and [paridebollettin@sci.muni.cz](mailto:paridebollettin@sci.muni.cz) by the 6th January 2025.

The case study should be related to **the relations between *ethnicity* and *futurism***, with a focus on Czech Republic and/or on a personal experience. The final essay should be a maximum of 10 pages long, including an introduction (to situate the discussion), a description of the selected case study (detailing sources of information, presenting the specificities, etc.), a conclusion (discussing the case study with the ideas introduced in the course), and a list of references (minimum 3 from the course + minimum 1 from autonomous search).

Guidelines for the editorial style of the essay: see

[https://journals.muni.cz/anthropologia\\_integra/about/submissions](https://journals.muni.cz/anthropologia_integra/about/submissions)

In the self-evaluations, you should demonstrate a reflection on the level of obtained knowledge of the issues discussed during lectures, the development of critical capacities for the analysis of an ethnographic case, and the demonstration of clear argumentative skills.

The self evaluation will be realised after the feedbacks given by the teachers on the final essay, and it can be sent as an email to the teachers as a brief (paragraph) argumentation.

### **Language of instruction**

English and Czech

### **Further comments**

Course's materials and instructions will be provided in advance to participants.

### **Teachers' information**

RNDr. Robin Pěnička, Ph.D. (ÚAntr Biol PŘF MU)

Paride Bollettin, MSc., Ph.D. (ÚAntr Biol PŘF MU)