

PřF: Bi7851 Anthropology of Ethnicity

25th September 2024

Welcome to the course!

Who are we?

RNDr. Robin Pěnička, Ph.D.

Prof.PhDr. Jaroslav Malina, DrSc.

Paride Bollettin, MSc., Ph.D.

Who are you? (Introduce yourselves)

What do you expect to learn from this course?

What is ethnicity?

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

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

<https://youtu.be/5-TsQIpK1Zk>

<https://video.repubblica.it/mondo/cina-lo-spot-piu-razzista-l-uomo-nero-viene-sbiancato-ispirato-a-campagna-italiana/241111/241076>

Question: what is ethnicity in these two videos?

Enumerate stereotypes, idealizations, preconceptions, etc. you can identify...

What about “the Czech”?

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

“‘Predestination’ was replaced with ‘life project’, fate with vocation – and a ‘human nature’ into which one was born with ‘identity’ which one needs to saw up and make fit.” (:122)

“‘identity’ is not a ‘private matter’ and a ‘private worry’” (: 124)

From “pilgrims” to vagabonds”: *“which identity to choose, and how best to keep alert and vigilant so that another choice can be made” (: 126)*

“Identity sprouts on the graveyard of communities, but flourishes thanks to its promise to resurrect the dead” (: 129)

How is this connected with **our** descriptions of “ethnicity” (as it reflects the idea of the “identities”)?

What are we going to do in this course?

As the name describes: an (inevitably short) introduction to anthropological concepts of ethnicity

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:

25th September: introduction

02nd October: 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

09th October: ethnic diversity in Uganda, with Edward Bantu from kabale University (Uganda).

Course contents:

16th October: concept of “self-identification” and “ethnocentrism” as a key element for the current controversies and politics about ethnicity and identity.

23th October: ethnicity and historical migrations in Europe.

30th October: The lecture will be focused on ethnic groups in the Czech Republic.

Course contents:

06th November: lecture with Marcelo Moura Melo from federal University of Bahia (Brazil).

14th November: lecture on food and ethnicity with Donatella Schmidt from University of Padova (Italy).

20st November: practical exercise, 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 visuality of ethnicity.

Course contents:

27th November: lecture on African ethnicities and the civil war in Mozambique, with Fernando Florencio from the University of Coimbra (Portugal).

04th December: lecture on 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, 2023), and will briefly introduce it in the class reflecting on her/his own ideas of future.

11th December: Visit to the Roma Museum

18th December: Presentation of the final works**, participative 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%)**.

* **Self evaluation**

In the self-evaluations, you should demonstrate a reflection on the level of obtained knowledge of the issues discussed during the meetings, 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.

**** Final essay**

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 and 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

For the next week

Please read:

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

In case of any doubt:

penicka@sci.muni.cz

paridebollettin@sci.muni.cz

Or zaklepat na dveře kanceláře...