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UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA
DE MURCIA

MODULE 3

MASTER DEGREE IN
TOLERANCE STUDIES AND GLOBAL PEACE



MODULE - 3

Anthropology of Tolerance and Peace: Unpacking Cultural Dynamics for Harmonious and Peaceful World

Number of credits: 6 ECTs

Teaching Modality: Face to Face (ENG)

Brief description of the course:

This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the intricate relationship between anthropology, tolerance and peacebuilding. Through a multidisciplinary approach, this course explores the theoretical foundations and practical applications of fostering tolerance and promoting peaceful coexistence within diverse cultural context. Students will delve into the core concept of sociocultural anthropology, examining how cultural beliefs, norms, and practices influence attitudes towards tolerance and conflict resolution. The course will delve into the anthropological study of cultural diversity, social identity, and the role of communication in fostering understanding among different groups.

The course will also critically analyze case studies from various regions and historical periods, shedding light on successful approaches to peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Students will gain insights into the role of anthropologists as agents of positive changes, working alongside communities to identify root causes of conflict and collaborative develop strategies for sustainable peace.

Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to engage in thought-provoking discussions and participate in experiential activities that challenge their perspective and promote empathetic understanding. By the end of this course, students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to critically analyze cultural dynamics, promote tolerance and contribute to peacebuilding initiatives, making them valuable contributors to a more harmonious and inclusive world.

Learning outcomes:

- Students to be able to fully comprehend the theoretical and practical concept of sociocultural anthropology as the field of study of tolerance and global peace.
- Students to be able to assess and to update various context in which an ethnographic study could be carried out, as well as the planning and the



UCAM

UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA
DE MURCIA

MODULE 3

MASTER DEGREE IN TOLERANCE STUDIES AND GLOBAL PEACE



implementation of an anthropological study, particularly in the area of tolerance study and global peace.

Course syllabus:

1) **The evolution of anthropology as an academic discipline & defining sociocultural anthropology**

This lecture on the evolution of anthropology as an academic discipline provides an insightful journey through the development of this field study. It begins by exploring anthropology's origins and to understand the diversity of human cultures encountered during colonial expansion and exploration. It delves into sociocultural anthropology, defining it as the study of contemporary cultures and their social system. This subfield focuses on understanding human behavior, beliefs, norms and values within the context of social organization. It emphasizes the use of participant observation and fieldwork to gain deeper insight into the intricate interactions between individuals and their communities.

2) **Anthropology of Tolerance and peace**

This session offers a comprehensive exploration into the crucial facets of tolerance and peace within society. It showcases the pivotal role that anthropology plays in deciphering the intricacies of cultural dynamics and fostering harmonious coexistence. By delving into anthropological perspectives, students gain a nuanced understanding of how tolerance and peace are defined and practiced across diverse cultures. This session not only depends awareness of these essential values but also underscores how anthropology serves as a key tool in comprehending their diverse manifestations and promoting a more interconnected and peaceful world.

3) **Cultural Relativism and Tolerance**

This session encapsulates a profound exploration into the symbiotic relationship between the concept of cultural relativism and the cultivation of tolerance. This session navigates the intricacies of cultural relativism, illuminating how diverse norms and values influence varying perceptions of tolerance across societies. By delving into case studies that exemplify the role of cultural relativism in fostering tolerance, participants gain insight into how this principle engenders a deeper understanding and appreciation of differing perspectives, thereby nurturing an environment of empathy, acceptance and coexistence.



UCAM

UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA
DE MURCIA

MODULE 3

MASTER DEGREE IN TOLERANCE STUDIES AND GLOBAL PEACE



- 4) The Ethnography I: Understanding Cultures through participant observation**
This focus on the fundamental principles of ethnography, including participant observation and immersion in the culture being studied. It can devolve into the methods used by ethnographers to gain insight into the belief, practices, and social dynamics of different communities.
- 5) The Ethnography II: Cultural Relativism and Ethnographic Interpretation**
This lecture discusses the concept of cultural relativism in ethnography, emphasizing the need to understand cultures from within their own context rather than imposing external judgements. It can explore the challenges of interpreting cultural practices and beliefs from an unbiased and culturally sensitive perspective. These topics provide a foundation for understanding the principles, challenges and complexities involved ethnographic research and its valuable contribution to the study of human cultures and societies.
- 6) The Ethnography III: Reflexivity in Ethnography & The Role of the Ethnographer in Shaping Research**
This topic would explore the concept of reflexivity in ethnographic research, emphasizing the active role of the ethnographer in shaping the research process and interpretation. It can discuss how the researcher's background, biases, and experiences can influence data collection, analysis and the overall findings.
- 7) Conflict Resolution and Mediation: Memory, reconciliation, peacebuilding and Social Change.**
In this session, the students will delve into anthropological perspectives on conflict resolution and mediation, gaining insights into various methodologies employed by anthropologists to address conflicts and foster peace. This session will also examine how societies tackle historical conflict and traumas to establish enduring peace. Participants will explore anthropological frameworks concerning memory, healing and reconciliation, while delving into illuminating case studies that exemplify effective conflict resolution practices. This session offers a holistic understanding of how anthropology contributes to building sustainable peace through nuanced approaches to conflict and social change.
- 8) Power, Marginalization and Tolerance**
This session critically analyzes the intricate interplay between power dynamics, social inequalities, and the concept of tolerance. Delving into the multifaceted realm of societal structures, the session explores the ways in



UCAM

UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA
DE MURCIA

MODULE 3

MASTER DEGREE IN TOLERANCE STUDIES AND GLOBAL PEACE



which systems of privilege and marginalization intricately shape intergroup relations, influencing the potential for harmonious coexistence. Drawing on the insights of anthropological research, this session sheds light on strategies for confronting power imbalances and promoting tolerance as a means to establish sustainable peace, fostering a deeper understanding of the complex interactions that underpin social harmony."

9) Identity, Otherness and Peace

This session that delves into the intricate connections between identity construction, the notion of 'otherness', and the pursuit of peace. Through a comprehensive lens, the session examines the ways in which the formation of individual and group identities intersects with the ideals of tolerance and peaceful coexistence. By engaging in insightful discussion, students will explore how identities are often defined in relation to 'other' and how such distinctions can either exacerbate difference or offer pathways for reconciliation. By drawing from compelling case studies, this session offers a profound exploration of how the negotiation of identities can play a pivotal role in achieving harmonious and enduring social interactions.

10) Peacebuilding and Social change

This session offers a dynamic exploration into the realm of anthropology's lens on initiatives for peacebuilding and transformative social change. Through an in-depth examination, participants engage with anthropological perspective that illuminate the intricacies of peacebuilding strategies and their impact on societal transformation. The session delves into grassroots movements, nonviolent resistance, and community-led methodologies that facilitate conflict resolution and lasting changes. By presenting compelling case studies, the session underscores the efficacy of anthropological approaches in catalyzing effective peacebuilding practices, offering an enlightening insight into the pivotal role of anthropology in shaping a more harmonious world.

11) Globalization, transnationalism and Tolerance

This session encapsulates a captivating exploration into the intricate relationship between contemporary globalization and the dynamics of tolerance and peace. This session meticulously dissects the multifaceted effect of globalization and transnational interactions on both challenging and reinforcing social boundaries and attitudes. Students will delve into the complexity of increased interconnectedness, investigating how it can simultaneously blur and solidify identity boundaries. Through a lens stepped in anthropology, this session examines diverse strategies for nurturing



UCAM

UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA
DE MURCIA

MODULE 3

MASTER DEGREE IN TOLERANCE STUDIES AND GLOBAL PEACE



tolerance and harmonious coexistence within the context of an interconnected global society, thereby offering a nuanced understanding of how anthropology can contribute to navigating the evolving landscape of a diverse and interconnected world.

12) Presentation – Ethnographic works

Teaching approach:

Lecture/seminar

The theoretical part of the course consists of both seminars and lectures. Discussions between course attendants and lecturers are essential for this part, therefore participation is encouraged either during or after the lecture to share perspectives and address questions or comments.

Practical

The second part of the course is comprised of case studies, and experiential. Case analysis is carried out in a group of 3 students.

Tutorial

Two kinds of tutorials: (1) Peer-to-peer mentoring, and (2) tutorial with a tutor, where students will reflect on learnings from the course, share questions and understanding, and explore further interests.

Recommended Textbook

- Kottak, C. (2018). *Window on humanity: A concise introduction to anthropology* (8th ed.). New York: Mc-Graw-Hill.
- Muckle, R., & Tubelle de González, L. (2019). *Through the lens of anthropology: Human evolution and culture* (2nd ed.). Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Park, M. (2011). *Introducing anthropology: An integrated approach* (6th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Peoples, J., & Bailey, G. (2018). *Humanity: An introduction to cultural anthropology* (11th ed.). Boston: Centgage Learning.
- Additional material will be provided along the course

Reference

- Alexander, J., Jacobs, R., & Smith, P. (Eds.). (2012). *The Oxford handbook of cultural sociology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Bernard, H., & Gravlee, C. (Eds.). (2015). *Handbook of methods in cultural anthropology* (2nd ed.). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.



- Low, S. (Ed.). (2019). *The Routledge handbook of anthropology and the city*. London: Routledge.
- Pedersen, L., & Cliggett, L. (Eds.). (2021). *The Sage handbook of cultural anthropology*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Learning Methodology:

Methodology	Dedicated Hours
Lectures 12 sessions (@4 hours)	48
Tutoring	6
Assessment	6
Independent study	20
Practical exercise	50
Reading and Bibliography Search	20
TOTAL	150

Course Assessment:

The course assessment is integrated of a series of activities as the following:

- *Attendance and Active participation during the course (10%)*
- *A review essay written in response to an article published in the field of anthropological research (20%)*

This assignment intends to tease out students' critical thinking. The students are asked with thorough analyzing the chosen article, delving into its key arguments, methodology and supporting evidence. The students are asked to evaluate the author's perspective, strength and limitations, as well as to draw connections with other relevant scholarly works. Through this exercise, students develop their skills in synthesizing information, honing their analytical thinking and articulating their well-supported perspective. This assignment will foster a deeper understanding of contemporary anthropological debates and encourages students to contribute thoughtfully in the ongoing discourse in the field of anthropology

- *A design of an ethnographic study to be conducted as part of the course (20%)*
- *The final report of an ethnographic study conducted as part of the course (40%)*
- *An oral presentation on the individual ethnographic study conducted by the student (10%)*



UCAM

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MODULE 3

MASTER DEGREE IN TOLERANCE STUDIES AND GLOBAL PEACE



Practices and /or seminars will be evaluated through different assessment methods (exercise, completion and presentation of assignments, practical clases, etc.) that reflect the practical content covered.

In general, the grading system established in R.D. 1125/2003 of September 5th will be followed, which is as follows:

- 0 – 4,9: Fail (SS)
- 5,0 – 6,9: Pass (AP)
- 7,0 – 8,9: Good (Notable)
- 9,0 – 10: Outstanding (SB)

The mention of “Honors” may be granted to students who have obtained a grade equal or higher than 9.0. The number of honors awarded cannot exceed 5% of the students enrolled in a subject in the corresponding academic year, unless the number of enrolled students is less than 20, in which case only one honor may be granted.

Teaching team:

Prof Vinny Flaviana Hyunanda

Schedule:

12 lecture sessions (from 16h00 to 20h00) which would be conducted between November to January.