University of Gdańsk

Subject card

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| Subject name and code | Anthropology of future, possibility and hope, PG_00179472 | | |
| Field of study | Ethnology | | |
| Date of commencement of studies | October 2025 | Academic year of realisation of subject | 2025/2026 |
| Education level | Master's studies | Subject group | Obligatory subject group in the field of study<br>Optional subject group<br>Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study |
| Mode of study | full-time studies | Mode of delivery | at the university |
| Year of study | 1 | Language of instruction | Polish |
| Semester of study | 1 | ECTS credits | 4.0 |
| Learning profile | academic | Assessment form | exam |
| Conducting unit | | | |
| Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers) | Subject supervisor | dr Anna Zadrożna | |
| | Teachers | dr Anna Zadrożna | |

**Lesson types**

| Lesson type | Lecture | Tutorial | Laboratory | Project | Seminar | SUM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of study hours | 30.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 30 |

E-learning hours included: 0.0

**Learning activity and number of study hours**

| Learning activity | Participation in didactic classes included in study plan | Participation in consultation hours | Self-study | SUM |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of study hours | 30 | 27.0 | 43.0 | 100 |

**Subject objectives**

1. Familiarization with basic issues in the field of anthropology of the future
2. Placing anthropology of the future in the broader context of research on temporality
3. Ability to distinguish between concepts such as hope, possibility, and expectation
4. Familiarization with basic methods used in ethnography of the future
5. Acquiring the ability to synthesize and analyze text

Learning outcomes

| Course outcome | Subject outcome | Method of verification |
|---|---|---|
| [ETNOMU2_K02] Is prepared to initiate and actively participate in activities for the preservation of national and world cultural heritage | Students are prepared to participate in activities aimed at protecting and reinterpreting cultural heritage in the context of future challenges. | [SK4] test/exam - oral or written |
| [ETNOMU2_U06] Is able to carry out a critical analysis and interpretation of various types of cultural products, applying original approaches, taking into account new developments in the humanities in order to determine their meanings, social impact, place in the historical-cultural process | Students are able to carry out critical analyses of cultural phenomena related to the future, identifying their meanings and potential social impacts. | [SU4] test/exam - oral or written |
| [ETNOMU2_W03] Has well-ordered detailed knowledge in selected areas of cultural knowledge, including the knowledge and understanding of the importance of promotion and protection of cultural heritage of Pomerania, Poland and the world | Students have knowledge of selected cultural areas and understand their importance for shaping visions of the future and safeguarding heritage. | [SW4] test/exam - oral or written |
| [ETNOMU2_K01] Critically evaluates acquired knowledge, personal and social competences; is prepared to critically evaluate information received | Students critically assess their knowledge and sources concerning future studies, recognising the limits of their competencies. | [SK4] test/exam - oral or written |
| [ETNOMU2_W04] Has in-depth knowledge of the relationship between ethnology and cultural anthropology and other humanities and social sciences, allowing for the integration of perspectives relevant to several scientific disciplines | Students have advanced knowledge of the links between anthropology and other humanities and social sciences, enabling interdisciplinary research on the future. | [SW4] test/exam - oral or written |
| [ETNOMU2_W09] Has an in-depth knowledge of the complex nature of language in different cultural circles | Students have advanced knowledge of language as a tool for constructing visions of the future and narratives of hope in different cultures. | [SW4] test/exam - oral or written |
| [ETNOMU2_U01] Is able to independently search, verify, evaluate, select information, applying modern techniques of acquiring and analysing data with the use of various sources, integrate knowledge, and formulate critical opinions on this basis | Students are able to independently search for and analyse materials on contemporary and future-oriented cultural interpretations, formulating critical conclusions. | [SU4] test/exam - oral or written |
| [ETNOMU2_U14] Can work in a group with different roles, including leadership | Students are able to work in a group, taking on different roles in discussions and projects related to visions of the future and hope in culture. | [SU4] test/exam - oral or written |
| [ETNOMU2_W02] Has a structured, in-depth knowledge, including terminology, theory and methodology in ethnology and cultural anthropology | Students have systematic knowledge of terminology, theories, and methodologies used in cultural analyses from the perspective of the anthropology of the future. | [SW4] test/exam - oral or written |
| [ETNOMU2_U02] Has in-depth research skills, including analysis of other authors' works, synthesis of various ideas and views, selection of methods, and construction of research tools, elaboration and presentation of results, allowing for original solutions of complex problems in the field of ethnology and cultural anthropology | Students are able to synthesise ideas and concepts from different authors in research on the future of culture and to create tools for analysis and presentation of results. | [SU4] test/exam - oral or written |
| [ETNOMU2_W01] Has in-depth knowledge of the specific subject matter and methodology of ethnology and cultural anthropology, which they are able to develop and creatively apply in professional activity | Students have advanced knowledge of the methodological specificities of cultural anthropology and are able to apply it in creative reflection on the future of societies. | [SW4] test/exam - oral or written |

| | Course outcome | Subject outcome | Method of verification |
|---|---|---|---|
| | [ETNOMU2_W07] Knows and understands advanced methods of analysing, interpreting, valuing and problematising cultural products from different cultural backgrounds | Students know and understand methods of cultural analysis that enable the interpretation of phenomena related to social possibilities and hopes. | [SW4] test/exam - oral or written |
| | [ETNOMU2_K07] Systematically takes part in cultural life, is interested in current cultural events, innovative forms of artistic expression, new phenomena in art | Students are interested in contemporary cultural events and new artistic forms as sources of knowledge about possible futures. | [SK4] test/exam - oral or written |
| | [ETNOMU2_U09] Communicates in Polish and/or foreign language using professional terminology specific to ethnology and cultural anthropology | Students are able to communicate using anthropological terminology related to the future, possibilities, and hope in culture. | [SU4] test/exam - oral or written |
| | [ETNOMU2_U05] Has the ability to integrate knowledge in the field of ethnology and cultural anthropology, and to apply it in non-typical professional situations | Students are able to integrate knowledge from cultural anthropology and other disciplines in the analysis of future cultural scenarios. | [SU4] test/exam - oral or written |

**Subject contents**

1. Time and temporality in anthropology
2. Towards a time-conscious anthropology: Hodges
3. How to study the future?: Bryant & Knight (introduction)
4. The future as a cultural fact: Appadurai
5. The ethnography of expectation: Bryant & Knight
6. The ethnography of possibility: Guyer
7. On the possibility of possibility: Knight & Manley
8. Possibilities for survival in capitalist ruins: Tsing
9. The ethnography of hope: Bryant & Knight
10. Hope in research, hope as a method: Miyazaki
11. Hope, uncertainty, and doubt: Jansen
12. Spaces of hope: Harvey
13. Horizons of Imagination: Crapanzano
14. Towards the Future as a Method: Bryant & Knight

**Prerequisites and co-requisites**

**Assessment methods and criteria**

| Subject passing criteria | Passing threshold | Percentage of the final grade |
|---|---|---|
| Written exam | 51.0% | 100.0% |

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|---|---|---|
| Recommended reading | Basic literature | Appadurai, Arjun. *The Future as Cultural Fact: Essays on the Global Condition*. New York, 2013. Introduction<br><br>Bryant, Rebecca, and Daniel M. Knight. *The Anthropology of the Future* . Cambridge University Press, 2019.<br><br>Crapanzano, Vincent. *Imaginative horizons: An essay in literary-philosophical anthropology*. University of Chicago press, 2004.<br><br>Harvey, David. *Spaces of hope*. Vol. 7. Univ of California Press, 2000.<br><br>Hodges, Matt. Rethinking Time's Arrow. *Anthropological Theory*, vol. 8, no. 4, 2008, pp. 399429., doi:10.1177/1463499608096646<br><br>Jansen, Stef. "For a relational, historical ethnography of hope: Indeterminacy and determination in the Bosnian and Herzegovinian meantime." *History and Anthropology* 27, no. 4 (2016): 447-464.<br><br>Knight, Daniel M., and Gabriela Manley. "The possibility of possibility: Between ethnography and social theory." *Possibility Studies & Society* 1, no. 1-2 (2023): 118-126.<br><br>Miyazaki, Hirokazu. *The method of hope: anthropology, philosophy, and Fijian knowledge*. Stanford University Press, 2004.<br><br>Munn, Nancy D. The Cultural Anthropology of Time: A Critical Essay. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, vol. 21, no. 1, 1992, pp. 93123.<br><br>Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt. "The mushroom at the end of the world: On the possibility of life in capitalist ruins." In *The Mushroom at the End of the World*. Princeton University Press, 2015 (Introduction). |
| | Supplementary literature | Ringel, Felix. "Beyond temporality: Notes on the anthropology of time from a shrinking fieldsite." *Anthropological theory* 16, no. 4 (2016): 390-412. |
| | eResources addresses | |
| Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed | Explain what time-conscious anthropology is.<br><br>Discuss the concept of space of hope as an alternative form of the future in times of capitalist exploitation.<br><br>Referring to the texts discussed, compare the concepts of possibility and hope. | |
| Work placement | Not applicable | |

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