University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Anthropology of the Contemporary Issues, PG_00148958						
Field of study	Sociology						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2027		Academic year of realisation of subject		2028/2029		
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group 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	2		Language of instruction		Polish		
Semester of study	4		ECTS credits		1.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		exam		
Conducting unit	Institute of Sociology -> Faculty of Social Sciences -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Agata Bachórz				
	Teachers						
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		0.0		0.0	30
Subject objectives	The aim of the course is primarily to introduce students to the "anthropology at home"/"anthropology of the contemporary": its subject of study, its specific critical perspective which addresses modern and postmodern societies, the topics it engages with, and the theoretical concepts it employs. The secondary goal is to stimulate anthropological imagination among students.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[SOCL3_W05] The graduate has advanced knowledge of man as a subject constituting social structures and the rules of their functioning, as well as acting in these structures and participating in cultural practices in the local, regional environment, the area of national culture and global exchange	The student possesses advanced, critical knowledge of selected important issues in the contemporary world and their anthropological interpretation.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[SOCL3_W02] The graduate has advanced knowledge about different types of social structures and institutions such as the state, nation, classes and social strata, ethnic group, local community, social group, family, political party, enterprise, she/he knows the differences in the functioning principles of social, public and commercial organisations	The student knows how late modernity and late capitalism have redefined the ways people function within various social structures and institutions such as the state, nation, social classes, ethnic groups, local communities, families, and workplaces. The student knows the anthropological conceptual framework for describing these transformations.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[SOCL3_W04] The graduate knows and understands in an advanced way the types of informal and formal social bonds that arise in different types of groups, social networks and societies, and with the regularities governing their change.	The student understands how global processes and phenomena such as migrations, late capitalism, or globalization influence the formation of social bonds within various groups and communities.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[SOCL3_U01] The graduate is able to interpret social phenomena using sociological concepts and sociological imagination	The student is capable of independently applying knowledge of the topics discussed in lectures to interpret other pressing phenomena of contemporary times. The student critically engages with media messages, political narratives, and common knowledge.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[SOCL3_U02] The graduate is able to use theoretical knowledge from different streams of sociology and acquire data to analyse specific social processes and phenomena	The student has the ability to analyze topics related to everyday life (including their own) using a theoretical analytical framework. The student understands that describing everyday experience is different from scientific analysis.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[SOCL3_U08] The graduate is able to analyse current social phenomena in the context of knowledge about the mechanisms of human activity, the impact of a group on an individual and the processes of change that Polish society, European society and that of the world undergoes	The student can critically analyze specific issues in contemporary Poland and Europe (political transformation, nationalisms, migration processes, changes in labor relations) in contrast to popular knowledge and media narratives.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents	1. Anthropology "at home": its definition, characteristics, and how it differs from classical anthropology. Poland/world perspective. 2. Globalization, glocalization, creolization, indigenization: meanings of these concepts, examples, discussion around the shape of globalization (two opposing scenarios). 3. Tradition and cultural heritage in the "post-traditional" world. The concept of "invented tradition". Work of heritage, tangible and intangible heritage. 4. Anthropology of contemporary nationalism: national identity and everyday life. 5. Migrations: from questions about integration (discussion) to transnational life, settlement, and mobility as anthropological "lenses". 6. Transnationalism of migrants, transmigration and economics, transnational migrations and reinterpretation of family, transmigrations and cultural diffusion (social transfers), types of transnationalism. 7. The concept of neoliberalism, neoliberalism in anthropological/ethnographic research. 8. Faces of economic and social transformation in the Eastern Bloc (1990s) and ethnographic knowledge. The concept of postsocialism - its ambiguity and discussion around it. 9. Using a postcolonial perspective in research on Central and Eastern Europe. 10. Anthropology of food systems' change.
Prerequisites and co-requisites	The student has general knowledge of classical cultural anthropology.

Assessment methods and criteria

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

Recommended reading

Basic literature	1. Appadurai A., Modernity at Large. Cultural Dimensions of Globalization, University of Minnesota Press, 1996, chapter 5 (Playing with Modernity. The Decolonization of Indian Cricket) 2. Buchowski M., Czyściec. Antropologia neoliberalnego postsocjalizmu, Poznań 2017 [Purgatory: anthropology of neoliberal postsocialism], chapter 6 3. Dunn E. Privatizing Poland. Baby Food, Big Business, and the Remaking of Labor, Longleaf Services on behalf of Cornell University 2004, chapter 3 4. Dyskusja w Zakładzie Metod Badania Kultury o ludziach spotykanych w trakcie prowadzenia badań, o metodologii i metodach pracy w terenie [Discussion at the Institute of Cultural Research Methods about people encountered during fieldwork, about methodology and methods of work in the field] in: B. Fatyga, M. Dudkiewicz, B. Kietlińska (red.), Praktyki badawcze [Research Practices], Warszawa, s. 89-112. 5. Vertovec S., Transnationalism, Routledge 2009, chapters 3 and 4
Supplementary literature	1. Graeber D. *Bullshit Jobs: A Theory,* Penguin 2018. 2. Herzfeld M. Cultural IntimacySocial Poetics and the Real Life of States, Societies, and Institutions, Routledge 2016 3. Kuligowski W., Antropologia współczesności. Wiele światów, jedno miejsce [Anthropology of the Contemporary: Many Worlds, One Place], Kraków 2007 4. Pawlak M., Zawstydzona tożsamość. Emocje, ideologie i władza w życiu polskich migrantów w Norwegii ["Shamed Identity: Emotions, Ideologies, and Power in the Lives of Polish Migrants in Norway"], Kraków 2018 5. Rakowski T. Hunters, gatherers, and practitioners of powerlessness. An Ethnography of the Degraded in Postsocialist Poland, Berghahn Books 2019
eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	
Work placement	Not applicable

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