UCLouvain

lhist1420

2026

Introduction to Cultural History and Anthropology

5.00 credits	22.5 h	Q2

Teacher(s)	Sappia Caroline ;
Language :	French > English-friendly
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes	This unit introduces students to the field of cultural history and to the questions raised by the different approaches of the anthropological discipline to the humanities.
Learning outcomes	**At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :** 1 situate chronologically the different anthropological approaches; 2 identify the issues at stake; 3 make links between these approaches and the historical approach;
Evaluation methods	**Depending on the year, the course will be assessed:** - **either through group work** (continuous evaluation) (according to the terms and conditions given during the course and posted on Moodle); - **or through an oral examination and an essay** to be submitted for the examination session (according to the terms and conditions given during the course and posted on Moodle). **Generative artificial intelligence (AI)** must be used responsibly and in accordance with the practices of academic and scientific integrity. As scientific integrity requires that sources be cited, the use of AI must always be reported. The use of artificial intelligence for tasks where it is explicitly prohibited will be considered as cheating, in particular for any work requiring the student to do some writing.
Teaching methods	Ongoing evaluation of the course through work groups requires active participation by students. Readings and various teaching resources (videos, podcasts) available to students via the course Moodle. Assignments or tasks may be requested from one course to the next. A field day may be organised in connection with a particular theme covered during the course.
Content	**This teaching unit aims to introduce students to cultural and anthropological history.** **"Cultural history is understood as the set of collective representations specific to a society" (Pascal Ory).** The aim is to give students an introduction to the major themes of cultural history through a dialogue with key concepts in the social sciences (anthropology and sociology). The course is based on introductory lectures followed by sessions on several thematic topics (which vary from year to year). **By the end of this course, students will be able to:** · Define what cultural history is, its evolution and its themes. · Position cultural history in French-speaking historiography (R. Chartier, A. Corbin, Vigarello, Pastoureau, M. Perrot, etc.) and Anglo-Saxon historiography (P. Burke, N. Z. Davis). · To make links between the historical discipline and various authors and concepts in the social sciences: É. Durkheim, M. Mauss and the gift, M. Douglas and defilement, C. Geertz and dense description, P. Bourdieu and cultural capital, post- and de-cononialism, Subaltern studies - R. Guha, E. Saïd... -Coloniality - A. Quijano, Mignolo, Walsh, Lugones... · Describe and analyse the many sources and methodologies used in cultural history. · Describe and analyse sources in relation to the examples seen in class. · To explore in depth a few major themes in cultural history (which vary from year to year)
Inline resources	· The pdf files of the Powerpoint slideshows presented in class · The authors' reference texts are shared online. · Online videos The teaching material is available on Moodle.

Bibliography	**Le cours est basé notamment sur les ouvrages suivants / The course is based in particular on the following books:** · Peter Burke, *What is Cultural History?* , Polity, New York, 2008. · Peter Burke, *Qu'est-ce que l'histoire culturelle?* , Belles Lettres, Paris, 2022. · Peter Burke, *Varieties of Cultural History,* Polity, New York, 1997. · Pascal Ory, *L'histoire culturelle* , PUF, 5e édition corrigée, Paris, 2019 (Que sais-je, n°3713). · Philippe Poirrier, L *es enjeux de l'histoire culturelle. L'histoire en débats* , Éditions du Seuil, Paris, 2004. · Laurence van Ypersele (dir.), *Questions d'histoire contemporaine. Conflits, mémoires et identités* , PUF, Paris, 2006. · Jay Winter, *The Cultural History of War in the Twenthieth Century and After* , Cambridge Universtiy Press, Cambridge, 2022. (Voir sur la page Moodle du cours pour une bibliographie plus développée / See the Moodle page of the course for a more extensive bibliography)
Other infos	Depending on the year, the organisation of an activity linked to the course and as an integral part of the course is possible: visit of an exhibition, conference, debates or screening of a film or documentary.
Faculty or entity in charge	EHAC

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)

Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures: German, Dutch and English	GERM1BA	5		
Bachelor in Ancient and Modern Languages and Literatures	LAFR1BA	5		
Bachelor in History	HIST1BA	5		
Bachelor in French and Romance Languages and Literatures : General	ROM1BA	5		
Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures : General	ROGE1BA	5		
Minor "Decentering History: Subalternities and postcolonial Studies"	MINDHIS	5		