



COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

ICAI

ICADE

CIHS

GUÍA DOCENTE

2024 - 2025

FICHA TÉCNICA DE LA ASIGNATURA

Datos de la asignatura	
Nombre completo	Comparative Cultural Studies
Código	E000010700
Nivel	Intercambio
Cuatrimestre	Anual
Créditos	6,0 ECTS
Carácter	Optativa
Departamento / Área	Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales

Datos del profesorado	
Profesor	
Nombre	Hutan Hejazi Martínez
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DATOS ESPECÍFICOS DE LA ASIGNATURA

Contextualización de la asignatura
Aportación al perfil profesional de la titulación
<p>In this course, we embark on a journey of cross-cultural exploration, delving into the intricate ways societies conceptualize and navigate fundamental notions such as debt and privacy. Through a comparative lens, we will examine how these concepts have been historically constructed, culturally embedded, and transformed by evolving social, economic, and technological landscapes. By engaging with seminal works in anthropology and sociology, we will unpack the complex interplay between cultural values, power structures, and individual experiences. This course challenges us to critically examine our own assumptions and biases, fostering a deeper understanding of the diverse ways societies grapple with shared human concerns.</p>
Prerrequisitos
<p>This course is taught in English. Proficiency is recommended.</p>

Competencias - Objetivos
Competencias
<p>In this course, students will develop the competency to critically analyze and compare cultural notions across different societies, with a particular focus on concepts such as debt and privacy. They will gain the ability to trace the historical evolution of these concepts and understand their contemporary manifestations in light of social, economic, and technological changes. By examining the intricate relationship between cultural values, power dynamics, and individual experiences, students will develop a nuanced understanding of how cultural contexts shape societal norms and behaviors. Ultimately, the objective is to cultivate a critical and reflexive approach to cross-</p>



cultural understanding, enabling students to navigate the complexities of an interconnected world with heightened cultural sensitivity and awareness.

Resultados de Aprendizaje

Through an in-depth exploration of cultural notions such as debt and privacy, students will develop a critical understanding of how these concepts are shaped by historical, social, and technological forces within different cultural contexts. They will gain the ability to analyze and compare diverse cultural perspectives, recognizing the impact of cultural variations on individual and collective experiences. Furthermore, students will develop skills in interpreting academic literature and applying theoretical frameworks to real-world issues, fostering a complex understanding of the complexities of cross-cultural interactions in a globalized society.

BLOQUES TEMÁTICOS Y CONTENIDOS

Contenidos – Bloques Temáticos

- **Historical and Cultural Constructions of Debt:** This block would explore the historical origins and diverse cultural interpretations of debt, drawing heavily on David Graeber's "Debt: The First 5,000 Years." It would examine how debt has been used as a tool of social control, economic exchange, and moral obligation across different societies and time periods.
- **The Anthropology of Privacy in the Digital Age:** This block would delve into the evolving concept of privacy in the context of surveillance capitalism, drawing insights from Shoshana Zuboff's "The Age of Surveillance Capitalism." It would investigate how digital technologies and data collection practices have impacted individual privacy, social relations, and power dynamics.
- **Biopolitics and the Governance of Life:** This block would examine the intersection of power, knowledge, and the human body, drawing on Michel Foucault's "The Birth of Biopolitics." It would explore how political and economic systems regulate and control populations through various mechanisms, including healthcare, surveillance, and social norms.
- **Economic Systems and Cultural Values:** This block would analyze the relationship between economic structures and cultural values, potentially incorporating insights from Joseph Schumpeter's "History of Economic Analysis." It would investigate how different economic systems shape and are shaped by cultural beliefs, practices, and social hierarchies.
- **Technology, Culture, and the Future of Humanity:** This block would explore the impact of technological advancements on human societies and cultural evolution, potentially referencing Ray Kurzweil's "The Age of Spiritual Machines." It would examine how emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and biotechnology are challenging traditional notions of identity, consciousness, and social organization.

These thematic blocks would provide a comprehensive and interdisciplinary exploration of key anthropological and sociological concepts, encouraging students to critically engage with the complex interplay between culture, power, and human experience in a rapidly changing world.

METODOLOGÍA DOCENTE

Aspectos metodológicos generales de la asignatura

Metodología Presencial: Actividades

Class discussions, presentations and exams.

Metodología No presencial: Actividades

Reading assignments and research.



RESUMEN HORAS DE TRABAJO DEL ALUMNO

Summary/Division of Student work hours

In-class hours

Theoretical classes	25
Practical classes	25
Academically guided activities	25
Assessments	10

Out-of-class hours

Self-study of theoretical content	20
Self-study of practical content	20

EVALUACIÓN Y CRITERIOS DE CALIFICACIÓN

Assessment activities	Criterion	Weight
Group presentations	Rubric	50%
Final exam	Written	50%

BIBLIOGRAFÍA Y RECURSOS

Bibliografía Básica

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1977. *Outline of a Theory of Practice*. Cambridge University Press.

Foucault, Michel. 2010. *The Birth of Biopolitics: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1978-1979*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Graeber, David. 2011. *Debt: The First 5,000 Years*. Melville House.

Lévi-Strauss, Claude. 1993. "Father Christmas Executed." In *Unwrapping Christmas*, edited by David Miller, 38–51. Oxford, UK: Clarendon.

Zuboff, Shoshana. 2019. *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power*. Public Affairs.

Bibliografía Complementaria

Kurzweil, Ray. 2000. *The Age of Spiritual Machines: When Computers Exceed Human Intelligence*. New York, NY: Penguin Books.

Schumpeter, Joseph A. 2009. *History of Economic Analysis*. Routledge.