ANTH 1020 Anthropology: The Study of Cultures

SPRING 2019

Lecture: MON 1:30 - 3:15 PM YIA LT8
Tutorial: T1: MON 3:30 - 4:15 PM YIA LT8
T2: MON 4:30 - 5:15 PM YIA LT8
T3: MON 5:30 - 6:15 PM YIA LT8
T4: TBC

Lecturer: Dr Janice YC LAU (NAH 411, janicelau@cuhk.edu.hk) (appointment by email)
Tutor: Mr HUI Lok Hang (NAH 406, lokhui@link.cuhk.edu.hk)

Course Descriptions
This course introduces students to the basics of anthropology, its relevance to modern-day society, and its role within the humanities. It addresses the basic question of “why people do what they do” by situating human beings in their cultural and social contexts. The course focuses on the similarities and differences between human societies and cultures, in order to promote a fuller and deeper understanding of the nature and meaning of being human in today’s world. In the Spring 2019 semester, ANTH 1020 will be organized around the theme “Modernity and Its Discontents.” We will explore the diversity of culture by looking at the impact of modernity in different parts of the world.

Learning Outcomes
1. Students will develop their own judgment and sense of values through the comparisons of different regions, cultures, and societies;
2. Students will acquire skills in analyzing contemporary social problems;
3. Students will come to understand how anthropology is linked to the humanities in its emphasis on the culturally sensitive understanding of common human concerns.

Assessment Summary

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<tr>
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<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Tutorial participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2) Mid-term paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Feb 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>3) Final paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>April 23 (12:00 noon)</td>
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Assessment Related Requirements
Note that attendance alone does not carry points.
Attendance sheets will be used for tutorials. If you miss more than 2 tutorials without adequate documentation (such as doctor’s certificate or counseling certificate), you will gain 0 mark for tutorial participation.

All written assignments must be submitted to VeriGuide. Assignments without a signed declaration from VeriGuide will not be graded. Please visit: https://academic.veriguide.org/academic/login_CUHK.jspx

Assessment Details
1) Tutorial Participation: Part of your responsibility is regular attendance and participation in tutorial discussion. The awarding of high participation points comes with good attendance and active, thoughtful, consistent class participation, the kind that reveals your thorough preparation and engagement with class materials. This
means contributing your own ideas as well as providing constructive responses to other students’ comments.

2) **4-page Mid-term paper**: Over the course of the term, students will write a short essay (English, Times New Roman, font size 12, and double-spaced; or Chinese, 標楷體, font size 12, and double-spaced) about their engagement in some form of food culture and reflect upon their knowledge of identity in their own cultural or social milieu. They will be graded on the thoroughness and intelligence with which they learn from lectures and reading materials. They should submit the hardcopy of assignment in class.

3) **6-page Final paper**: This paper is designed to give students the opportunity to demonstrate the extent to which they have engaged with the central themes or issues raised in lectures. Students will write about a place or country of their interests with respect to certain aspects of its culture(s) and discuss from an anthropological perspective. They need to choose the theme carefully, such that it is neither too trivial nor too complicated to address the objective and scope of this paper. The paper can be either in English (Times New Roman, font size 12, and double-spaced) or Chinese, 標楷體, font size 12, and double-spaced) and be submitted to the Office of Department of Anthropology.

**Grade descriptors** for the assessment of this course:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Overall course</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.</td>
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Course outline and readings

Week 1  Jan 7  What is anthropology? What is culture? (No tutorial)

Week 2  Jan 14  The promise of science in the UK.

Week 3  Jan 21  The making of children in the US.

Week 4  Jan 28  Food and cultural politics in Italy

Week 5  Feb 4  No class due to Chinese Lunar New Year

Week 6  Feb 11  Migrant laborers and the culture of inequality in China
Recommended: Evan OSNOS, “A Billion Stories,” in The New Yorker

Week 7  Feb 18  Exporting cultures in South Korea
**Week 8  Feb 25**  Sex Work in Southeast Asia

**Week 9  March 4**  Sport and identity among the Indian diaspora in the UK.

**Week 10 March 11**  The cursing, taboo and unspeakable words in Singapore

**Week 11 March 18**  Blame and care of illness in Africa

**Week 12 March 25**  Death and rituals in Japan

**Week 13 April 1**  No class due to Reading Week (*Enjoy your time off but read the articles listed under week 14 if you can!*)

**Week 14 April 8**  What does it mean to be human? (*No tutorial*)