Culture of Hong Kong  

Curriculum: Spring 2017

Lecture: Wednesday 11:30 – 13:15, NAH115
Tutorials: 1) Wednesday 13:30 – 14:15, NAH115  
            2) Thursday 14:30 – 15:15, UCC208  
            3) TBA

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Course Description
Hong Kong has been known as an Asia’s world city, the confluence of Eastern and Western cultures. How true are these claims? What issues have been occurring to this city in rapid socio-economic transformation? This course introduces students to an understanding of Hong Kong’s culture and its people from an anthropological perspective. Through close readings of ethnographies, viewing of videos, and fieldtrips, the class explores the interaction of different cultural flows in various social systems, and learns about the linkage between the past and the present, the local and the global, and the Chinese and the rest.

What you will learn:
Student taking this course will:
- gain a better appreciation of different aspects of the culture of Hong Kong;
- learn how to use anthropological perspectives to understand our society and other people;
- acquire a critical mind to examine any social issues.

Course Requirements:

Class Participation:  20%
Response Papers:  40% (2 x 20%)
Final Paper:    40%

1)  Class Participation (20%):
You are expected to attend all the lectures and tutorials. Furthermore, you are expected to read the assigned readings before coming to class and participate in the discussion.

2)  Response Papers (40%)
In this course, we will have two fieldtrips. Write a 2-3 page paper for each fieldtrip. Response papers should include your field observations and discussion with reference to the assigned readings. Instead of merely describing your field observations or summarizing the readings, you should raise critical points of views. Submit your paper one week after the fieldtrip.

3)  Final Paper (40%):
Choose a cultural phenomenon in Hong Kong that you are interested in, formulate a research question, collect data, and write a 6-7 page paper to answer the question. The data can be collected through participant observation, interviews with informants, and archive research. After collecting the data, use the ideas learned in this course to analyze the issue. If you use other people’s ideas or words in the paper, you should cite the sources and list the sources under “References” in the end. Otherwise, you are committing plagiarism. Information about the CUHK academic honesty policy is available at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/. Submit your paper on or before 26 April.

After finishing your written assignments, please submit soft copies to both VeriGuide and the course website (Blackboard). Hard copies are not required.

The paper should be written in the following format: Double line spacing, Times New Roman, and font 12 (either Chinese or English).

Please submit your assignment on time. Marks will be deducted (i.e. one point per day) for late submission.
Course Schedule:
(Please note that tutorials take place after the lecture.)
*=required reading

1) Introduction (11 Jan.) No tutorial

2) Hong Kong Anthropology (18 Jan.)
   *Evans, Grant and Maria Siumi Tam. 1997. “Introduction.” In Grant Evans and Maria Siumi Tam, eds.,

3) Migration (25 Jan.)
   *Siu, Helen F. 2008. “Positioning ‘Hong Kongers’ and ‘New Immigrants.’” In Helen F. Siu and Agnes S.
   Ku, eds., *Hong Kong Mobile: Making a Global Population*, pp.117-148. Hong Kong: Hong Kong
   University Press.
   Salaff, Janet, Siu-lun Wong, and Arent Greve. 2010. “Hong Kong’s Institutional Background.” In *Hong

4) Holiday (1 Feb.)

5) Religion (8 Feb.)
   Hong Kong.” In Grant Evans and Maria Siumi Tam, eds., *Hong Kong: The Anthropology of a Chinese
   Wong, Wai-Ching. 2003. “Negotiating Gender Identity: Postcolonialism and Hong Kong Christian

6) Fieldtrip I: Visit Drug Rehabilitation Center (4 or 11 Feb.)
   Cheung, Yuet W. 2015. “Macro Social Flaws and Intervention’s Unfinished Business: A Personal Note on
   Young People’s Drug Use in Hong Kong.” *Substance Use & Misuse* 50:1044-1050.
   Tang, Wai-man. 2014. “Examing the Relationship Between Ethnicity and the Use of Drug-Related
   Services: An Ethnographic Study of Nepali Drug Users in Hong Kong.” *Substance Abuse and
   Rehabilitation* 5:53-62.

7) Gender (15 Feb.)
   *Tam, Siumi Maria, Anthony Fung, Lucetta Kam, and Mario Liong. 2009. “Re-gendering Hong Kong
   Man in Social, Physical and Discursive Space.” In Fanny Cheung and Eleanor Holroyd, eds.,
   *Mainstreaming Gender in Hong Kong Society*, pp.335-365. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press.
   Wong, Day. 2010. “Hybridization and the Emergence of ‘Gay’ Identities in Hong Kong and in China.”

8) No lesson (22 Feb.) (Replaced by Fieldtrip I)

9) Food Culture (1 Mar.)
   *Chan, Selina Ching. 2010. “Food, Memories, and Identities in Hong Kong.” *Identities: Global Studies in
   Culture and Power* 17:204-227.
   Mak, Veronica Sau Wa. 2011. “Southeast Asian Chinese Food in Tea Cafe and Noodle Shops in Hong
   Kong.” In Chee-Bang Tan, ed., *Chinese Food and Foodways in Southeast Asia and Beyond*,

10) Consuming Hong Kong (8 Mar.)
    Mathews and Tai-Lok Lui, eds., *Consuming Hong Kong*, pp.287-317. Hong Kong: Hong Kong
    University Press.
    O’Connor, Paul. 2016. “Skateboarding, Helmets, and Control: Observations from Skateboard Media and a
11) Environment and Society (15 Mar.)

12) Ethnic Minorities: Domestic Helpers in Hong Kong (22 Mar.)

13) Fieldtrip II: Visit ethnic minority communities in Jordan/Kwai Chung (25 Mar.)

14) Ethnic Minorities: South Asians in Hong Kong (29 Mar.)

15) Fieldtrip III: Participate in activities of Nepali communities – Purkha Diwas (4 Apr.) *Optional*

16) No lesson (5 Apr.) (Replaced by fieldtrip II)

17) Conclusion: Asia’s World City (12 Apr.)

18) No lesson (19 Apr.)