ANTH 5015
Anthropology: A Postgraduate Introduction
Fall 2017

Seminar: Monday 6:30 PM – 9:15 PM, NAH 11
Instructor: Teresa Kuan, NAH 325, tkuan@cuhk.edu.hk, 3-7728
Office Hours: Thursday 4:00PM – 6:00PM, and by appointment

This course introduces anthropology, a four-field discipline addressed to the question of what it means to be human. In the course of the semester, we will cover three of the four sub-fields – biological, linguistic, and cultural, focusing especially on major topics within the sub-field of cultural anthropology. Students will learn to think and see the world in a distinctly anthropological way.

Required Texts

Angela Garcia, The Pastoral Clinic: Addiction and Dispossession along the Rio Grande.

All other readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Resources

The following titles are not required reading, but they may be helpful in clarifying concepts and ideas:


Evaluation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Item</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper No. 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>October 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper No. 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>November 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>December 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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TIP: Learning how to think like an anthropologist involves learning how to write like one, and vice versa. You may take your reading assignments as a model, observing how various authors construct an argument, and how they marshal empirical evidence in doing so. Do be mindful, however, of the historical context in which an author is writing. Not everyone is to be emulated. Generally speaking, a strong anthropology paper will:
• Demonstrate an understanding of the concepts, how concepts are applied to ethnographic cases, and how concepts are developed out of ethnographic material.
• Demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the reading assignments.
• Ground the discussion in concrete examples.
• Use quotes effectively: sets them up and explains them – thereby integrating selected quotes into the paper.
• Offer a clear thesis topic or main point.
• Effectively synthesizes course ideas and materials, where appropriate.

All 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

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Week 1 (September 4): INTRODUCTION

 Malinowski, “Introduction,” from Argonauts of the Western Pacific

 clips from Kitchen Stories (2003)

Week 2 (September 11): ECOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

 Moran, “Human Adaptability to Arctic Zones,” from Human Adaptability

 Armelagos, “The Viral Superhighway,” from Annual Editions

 McRae, “Road Kill in Cameroon,” from The Environment in Anthropology

 Games of the North (2011)

Week 3 (September 18): BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

 Sapolsky, “The 2% Difference,” from Annual Editions

 Boesch and Boesch-Achermann, “Dim Forest, Bright Chimps,” from Annual Editions

 Stanford, “Got Culture?” from Annual Editions

 Gibbons, “The Human Family’s Earliest Ancestors,” from Annual Editions

 Gibbons, “A New View of the Birth of Homo sapiens” from Annual Editions

Week 4 (September 25): LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

 McWhorter, “Most of the World’s Languages Went Extinct,” from Making Sense of Language
Tannen, “New York Jewish Conversational Style” from Making Sense of Language

Blum, “Naming Practices and the Power of Words in China,” from Making Sense of Language

Clip from Annie Hall (1977)

PAPER NO. 1 DUE: October 3 (Tuesday)

Guiding questions will be posted September 26 by 10:00 a.m. Paper is due to the department office on October 3, by 5:00 p.m.

Week 5 (October 2): Public Holiday (day after National Day)

No class.

Week 6 (October 9): KINSHIP

Fox, “Introduction” and “Unilineal Descent Groups” from Kinship and Marriage

Stone, “Kinship, Gender, and the New Reproductive Technologies,” from Kinship and Gender

Week 7 (October 16): ECONOMIC ANTHROPOLOGY

Bohannan, “The economic integration of society” and “Multicentric economies, conversion, and the conflict of economies,” from Social Anthropology

West, “Making the Market: Specialty Coffee, Generational Pitches, and Papua New Guinea” from Antipode

Clip from The Godfather (1972)

Week 8 (October 23): POLITICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Sahlins, “Poor Man, Rich Man, Big-Man Chief: Political Types in Melanesia and Polynesia,” from Comparatives Studies in Society and History

Robbins, “The Nation-State in the Culture of Capitalism,” from Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism

Schein, “Making Minzu: The State, the Category, and the Work,” from Minority Rules

Ongka’s Big Moka (1976)

Week 9 (October 30): GENDER
Ortner, “Is Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture?” and “So, Is Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture?” from Making Gender

Mahmood, “Agency, Gender, and Embodiment,” from Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject

clips from Paris is Burning (1990)

PAPER NO. 2 DUE: November 6 (Monday)

Guiding questions will be posted October 31 by 10:00 a.m. Paper is due to the department office on November 6, by 5:00 p.m.

Week 10 (November 6): RELIGION AND RITUAL

Lienhardt, “The Control of Experience,” from A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion

Boddy, “Spirits and Selves in Northern Sudan,” from A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion

Les Maîtres fous (1954)

Week 11 (November 13): MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Kleinman, “The Meaning of Symptoms and Disorders,” from The Illness Narratives

Kaysen, Girl, Interrupted – read pp. 1-43, and pp. 73-48

Mattingly, “Narrative Matters,” from The Paradox of Hope

Week 12 (November 20): PSYCHOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY


Kuan, “Creating Tiaojian, or, The Art of Disposition,” from Love’s Uncertainty

Week 13 (November 27): ETHNOGRAPHY

No class. I will be traveling to the American Anthropological Association conference.

Garcia, Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2, from Pastoral Clinic

Class make-up (December 5): ETHNOGRAPHY

Please meet in TBA.

Garcia, Chapters 3 – 5 and Conclusion, from Pastoral Clinic
FINAL PAPER DUE: December 15 (Friday)

Guiding questions will be posted December 6 by 5:00 p.m. Paper is due to the department office on December 15, by 5:00 p.m.

POLICIES

Participation

Participating in class is extremely important. Asking questions and making comments not only contributes to generating a class discussion, it is also a way of trying out ideas and working through the material for your own sake. Getting comfortable with speaking up in class is important in learning how to think. Us teachers are not here to “transmit” ideas to you. We are not here to “pour” content into your brain. We would like for you to go beyond regurgitation of course materials in your written assignments, and learning to contribute to class discussion, learning to integrate multiple perspectives during class discussion, will help you strengthen your independent thinking skills. I fully encourage questions and comments during lectures, because your questions and comments will serve both the class as a community, as well as yourself.

Opinions vs. Arguments

There is a difference between opinion and argument. Your personal viewpoints are welcome during class discussion, but your papers will be evaluated based upon your ability to formulate an argument rather than your ability to express an opinion. An argument is analytical. Arguments propose relationships between variables, and they support assertions being made with empirical evidence.

There is also a difference between opinion and perspective. An opinion usually contains some kind of judgment about how the world should or should not operate. A perspective, on the other hand, is a way of looking at the world. In other words, having perspective involves the ability to see patterns and themes, or differences and divergences, which may not be obvious at first glance. Having an opinion is easy. Having the insight that comes with perspective is much harder.

Late Submissions

Papers submitted after the due date will suffer a fraction of a grade deduction for every day it is late. For example, an A- will become a B+, a B will become a B-, et cetera.

Academic Honesty

The Chinese University of Hong Kong places very high importance on academic honesty, and adopts a policy of zero tolerance on cheating in examinations and plagiarism. Any such offence will lead to disciplinary action including possibly termination of studies at the University. Students should know how to properly use source material and how to avoid
plagiarism. Students should read the detailed guidelines and examples for the acknowledgement of sources in the University’s website at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty. Students are required to submit all papers through VeriGuide, which is also explained at the above website.