ANTH 5015  
Anthropology: A Postgraduate Introduction  
Fall 2018

Seminar: Monday 6:30 PM – 9:15 PM, NAH 114  
Instructor: Teresa Kuan, NAH 325, tkuan@cuhk.edu.hk, 3-7728  
Office Hours: Thursday 4:00PM – 6:00PM, and by appointment  
Reader: M.K. Tam

Anthropology is a four-field discipline addressed to the question of what it means to be human; researchers may be trained in the biological sciences, archaeology, linguistics, and/or the ethnographic method. While the semester begins with the biocultural, we will primarily attend to major subfields in socio-cultural anthropology by exploring the many approaches and positions that have and can be taken in trying to understand the human condition, cultural variation, and social organization. Students will learn to think and see the world in a distinctly anthropological way.

Required Texts

Clara Han, *Life in Debt: Times of Care and Debt in Neoliberal Chile*.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Item</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper No. 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>October 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper No. 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>November 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>December 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

TIP FOR SURVIVAL: Students can sometimes feel overwhelmed by the diversity of topics and perspectives surveyed in this class. I encourage you to form small study groups to discuss amongst yourselves, and talk to me if you are having difficulty.

**

Week 1 (September 3): INTRODUCTION

- Malinowski, “Introduction,” from Argonauts of the Western Pacific
- clips from Kitchen Stories (2003)

Week 2 (September 10): ECOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

- Moran, “Human Adaptability to Arctic Zones,” in Human Adaptability
- TBD
- TBD
- Games of the North (2011)

Week 3 (September 17): BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

- Sapolsky, “The 2% Difference,” in Annual Editions
- Boesch and Boesch-Achermann, “Dim Forest, Bright Chimps,” in Annual Editions
- Stanford, “Got Culture?,” in Annual Editions
- Anderson, “A Telling Difference,” in Natural History
- Ingold, “The architect and the bee: reflections on the work of animals and men,” in The appropriation of nature: Essays on human ecology and social relations

Week 4 (September 24): LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

- McWhorter, “Most of the World’s Languages Went Extinct,” in Making Sense of Language
- Tannen, “New York Jewish Conversational Style” in Making Sense of Language
- Blum, “Naming Practices and the Power of Words in China,” in Making Sense of Language
- clip from Annie Hall (1977)
Week 5 (October 1): Public Holiday

☞ No class.

PAPER NO. 1 DUE: October 2 (Tuesday)

☞ Guiding questions will be posted September 25 by 10:00 a.m. Paper is due to the department office on October 2, by 5:00 p.m.

Week 6 (October 8): KINSHIP

☞ Fox, “Introduction” in Kinship and Marriage

☞ Fox, “Unilineal Descent Groups,” in Kinship and Marriage

☞ Stone, “Kinship, Gender, and the New Reproductive Technologies,” in Kinship and Gender

Week 7 (October 15): ECONOMIC ANTHROPOLOGY

☞ Bohannan, “The economic integration of society” in Social Anthropology

☞ Bohannan, “Multicentric economies, conversion, and the conflict of economies,” in Social Anthropology

☞ Chin, “Anthropologist Takes Inner-City Children on Shopping Sprees,” from Purchasing Power: Black Kids and American Consumer Culture

☞ clip from The Godfather (1972)

Week 8 (October 22): POLITICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

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


☞ Ongka’s Big Moka (1976)

Week 9 (October 29): GENDER

☞ Ortner, “Is Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture?” in Making Gender: The Politics and Erotics of Culture

☞ Ortner, “So, Is Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture?” in Making Gender: The Politics and Erotics of Culture
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 5 (Monday)

Guiding questions will be posted October 30 by 10:00 a.m. Paper is due to the department office on November 5, by 5:00 p.m.

Week 10 (November 5): RELIGION AND RITUAL

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

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

Les Maîtres fous (1954)

Week 11 & 12 (November 12 & 19): MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

No class. I will be away on a conference leave. Lecture will be audio-recorded and posted on Blackboard.

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

Mattingly, “Narrative Matters,” from The Paradox of Hope: Journeys through a Clinical Borderland

Good and Good, “Learning Medicine”: The Constructing of Medical Knowledge at Harvard Medical School,” in Knowledge, Power & Practice: The Anthropology of Medicine and Everyday Life

Han, Introduction and Chapters 1 – 2 from Life in Debt

Week 13 (November 26): PSYCHOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY


Kuan, “The problem of moral luck, anthropologically speaking,” in Anthropological Theory
Class make-up (December 3): ETHNOGRAPHY

Please meet in TBA, same time slot as usual.

Han, Chapters 3 – 4 and Conclusion, from Life in Debt

FINAL PAPER DUE: December 14 (Friday)

Guiding questions will be posted December 4 by 5:00 p.m. Paper is due to the department office on December 14, 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.