ANTH 5735 Preserving Cultural Heritage 文化遺產保護 (Spring 2013)

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Lectures: Tuesday 9:30-11:15 am, MMW703
Tutorial: Tuesday 11:30-12:15pm MMW703

Course description

Shall we preserve the old things, and why? What is “cultural heritage”? Using examples in different parts of the world, this course aims to give students a concise and critical understanding on heritage conservation from an anthropological perspective. The course will introduce basic concepts and cultural contexts of the occurrence and development of cultural heritage conservation in the world, and discuss important issues in this field, including the economic, social and political meanings of heritage in contemporary societies, the impetus of preserving heritage, and the use of heritage as a social and political implement by the state, scholars, and different communities for their own interests. The course will also discuss problems and challenges in this area.

No prior knowledge on heritage preservation is required for this course.

Major contents of this course are as follows:

- Why are human beings interested in their past? Is heritage “invented”? The origin and development of heritage conservation will be explored and discussed.
- Debates on heritage preservation and management:
  1. Who needs cultural heritage? Is heritage conservation a social elite business?
  2. Who owns the cultural heritage, and who has the right to decide what should be preserved, and how to preserve it?
  3. International principles and local cultures, globalization and localization: the preservation of cultural heritage in different political, economic and social contexts/countries—should there be “universal principles and philosophy” for heritage conservation? Is there a so-called “best practice”? Who has the right to decide what is “the best practice”?
  4. The use and abuse of cultural heritage.
- Heritage and indigenous people’s rights.
- The future of human beings’ past: can heritage be preserved at all?

Learning outcomes

After taking this course, students are expected to:
- understand the basic concepts, principles and approaches of managing cultural heritage.
- learn to appreciate cultural heritage created by human beings, and to respect different cultures.
- understand the economic, social and political issues of heritage preservation and management in contemporary societies.
- be able to use inter-disciplinary approaches and critical thinking in discussing heritage issues.

Course requirements:
- Two one-hour lectures and one one-hour tutorial per week, including a group presentation.
Assessment:

1. Group presentation 20%
   Presentation should consist of a 10 minute power point presentation that will be graded according to clarity of presentation and critical assessment of the issues in accordance with best practices for heritage management. Timing is crucial and diminished grades will result from not conforming with the presentation duration. A group’s grade will be the same for all its participants.

2. Mid-term report: 40% (approximately 20 pages)

3. Final project: 40% (approximately 20 pages)
Both reports to be submitted through VeriGuide, please read the following “academic honesty”.

Academic Honesty:

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/).

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign on the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via the plagiarism detection engine VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students’ uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

When submitting papers to VeriGuide, please number your assignment using the number above together with your name. For example, with assignment number 1, and if your name is Sue Jones, the file name should read: Ass1SJones.doc (or .pdf).


Feedback for evaluation:

Emails and discussions will be used as feedback strategies during the course to collect feedback from students.

Essential readings:

UNESCO 1972 The Convention Concerning the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage  
[http://whc.unesco.org/world_he.htm](http://whc.unesco.org/world_he.htm)

ICOMOS The Venice Charter and the Archaeological Heritage Charter  
[http://www.international.icomos.org/charters.htm](http://www.international.icomos.org/charters.htm)

Lecture topics:

**Week 1 (15 Jan.)**
Introduction, what is cultural heritage? Is it inherited or invented? Heritage preservation vision and strategies

**Readings:**
- Visiting webpage [http://whc.unesco.org/world_he.htm](http://whc.unesco.org/world_he.htm), and read the *Convention Concerning the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage*

**Week 2 (22 Jan.)**
Contents, application and problems of international principles and conventions on heritage preservation

**Readings:**
- UNESCO 1972 *The Convention Concerning the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage* [http://whc.unesco.org/world_he.htm](http://whc.unesco.org/world_he.htm)

**Topic for mid-term report (due 1 March): Do the international conventions effectively portray and manage the heritage of the world?**

**Week 3 (29 Jan.)**
Heritage management and assessment approaches and practices

**Readings:**

**Week 4 (5 Feb.)**
Managing and interpreting archaeological remains: *in situ* conservation vs. excavation

**Reading:**
- ICOMOS *The Venice Charter and the Archaeological Heritage Charter* [http://www.international.icomos.org/charters.htm](http://www.international.icomos.org/charters.htm)

**Week 5 (12 Feb.): No Lectures or Tutorials: Chinese New Year holiday**
Week 6 (19 Feb.)
Architectural monuments and environs—functions, issues and problems in management
Reading:

Week 7 (26 Feb.)
Integrating heritage and environment conservation: the construction of “cultural landscape”.
Reading:

Week 8 (5 Mar.)
The dynamics between tangible and intangible heritage
Readings:
UNESCO 2003 *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage* 

Week 9 (12 Mar.)
Understanding and interpreting the multi-vocality of heritage
Readings:

Week 10 (19 Mar.)
Does preserving cultural heritage assist in providing a cultural identity?
Readings:
Harvey, D.C., 2001, Heritage Pasts and Heritage Presents: temporality, meaning and the scope of heritage studies. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 7.4

Week 11 (26 Mar.)
Heritage and indigenous politics

Readings:

Week 12 (2 Apr.)
Heritage “conservation”, globalization, power and politics–should there be “universal principles” and “best practice”?

Readings:

Week 13 (9 Apr.)
Who needs cultural heritage? Heritage, society and individuals. The use and abuse of cultural heritage in contemporary societies. A critical review of heritage studies

Reading:
http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rjhs20

Tutorial topics:

Week 1
No tutorials. Students to prepare and read readings

Week 2
Discussion: what is cultural heritage and what is meant by preserving it.

Week 3
Discussion: major contents, strengths and weakness of international principles.

Weeks 4-6:
No classroom tutorials.
Students to form small groups and conduct research, including interviews of Hong Kong residents and literature surveys on this question: In Hong Kong, who wants to preserve cultural heritage, what aspects, why and how should this be implemented? All groups should consist of a combination of students with Cantonese language skills and literature research skills to effectively cover the topic requirements.
Week 7
Group presentation: in Hong Kong, who wants to preserve cultural heritage, why and how should this be implemented?

Week 8
Discussion: meanings of historical buildings in contemporary societies.

Week 9
Discussion: the “revitalization” of intangible heritage and ethnicity.

Week 10
Discussion: the multi-vocality of heritage and its interpretation

Week 11
Discussion: heritage preservation and cultural identity

Week 12
Discussion: heritage and indigenous politics

Week 13
Discussion: globalization, power and politics and heritage preservation