

Updated Dec 1

ANTH1020 Anthropology: the Study of Global Humanity

Lecture: Monday 1.30-4.15pm

Venue: Y.C. Liang Hall 103

Instructor: Sealing Cheng (sealing@cuhk.edu.hk)

**Teaching Assistants: ZHANG Yueyang (yueyang9411@gmail.com);
LYU Zihan (1155131811@link.cuhk.edu.hk)**

This course introduces students to the basics of anthropology and its role within the humanities, and its relevance to modern-day society. It addresses the basic question of “why people do what they do”: how our cultural and social shaping in large part makes us what we are as human beings. The course focuses on the similarities and differences in 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 of 2024-5, we will follow the wisdom of Gao Tzu, the ancient Chinese sage, that “Food and Sex are Human Nature” and explore the diversity of cultures through food and sex. This is a 3-class-session will include a variety of lecture, class activities, and research exercises to give students a sense of what anthropological research is about.

本科旨在向學生介紹人類學的基本概念和基礎知識，討論人類學和現代生活息息相關之處，以及它和人文學科的關係。它處理的根本問題是，“人們為甚麼做他們所做的事情，”即文化和社會如何塑造我們。本課程主要考量多樣的人類社會和文化的異同點，使學生更加完整和深入地了解在當今世界作為人的本質及意義。這學期我們會追隨告子的至理名言：“食色，性也。”《孟子·告子》看人類學如何讓我們理解人性與文化的千絲萬縷。

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will acquire a holistic understanding of different regions, cultures and societies across the globe;
2. Students will develop their own judgment and sense of values through the comparisons of different regions, cultures, and societies;
3. Students will acquire skills and confidence in conducting ethnographic research and writing;
4. Students will come to understand how anthropology is linked to the humanities in its emphasis on the culturally-sensitive understanding of common human concerns.

1. **Class Attendance and Participation (30%)**

This class uses mixed-mode pedagogy in the 2.5 hour session. Your responsibility is regular attendance and participation. 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 class discussions.

2. **“*Hanging Out*” Ethnographic Exercise In Class (Jan 27) (10 %)**

3. **1 Reflection/Fieldnotes (20%) (800 words and above, Due one week after the activity)**

CHOOSE ONE:

- a. “Blurring the Color Line” (Feb 24)
- b. Boodle Fight (Mar 17)
- c. Chungking Mansions (Mar 31)

4. **Canteen Ethnography/One-minute Film Project and Presentation on Apr 14 (Individual or Group of maximum 4) (40%)**

Using concept(s) in the course, you will develop your focus and work on this ethnography/film project together with the instructors.

Submission in 3 Parts

Part 1. Fieldnotes from Feb 10 (Due on Feb 17) (800 words)

Part 2. Ethnography (1200 words) /Film Synopsis (400 words) DRAFT (Bring to discussion on Apr 7)

: What questions are you asking? What do you want people to understand about the canteen through your work?

Part 3. Ethnography/Film Final Submission and Presentation in class on Apr 14

No late submission will be accepted without adequate documentation (e.g. doctor’s certificate or counseling certificate).

Updated Dec 1

If you were a Martian on earth....

Discovery-oriented model of research, suspending judgment about your conclusions until research has been conducted.

Part I: Ethnographies of Food and Ethnography Practicum

Jan 13 Class 2 Gender, Rituals, Gendered Rituals

- ***Do men and women drink alcohol in different ways? What are the rituals of drinking that produce gender differences?***

Abad, Luis Cantarero. 2001. "Gender and Drink in Aragon, Spain." In *Drinking: Anthropological Approaches*, 144-156. Oxford: Berghahn Books.

Optional: Meigs, Anna S. 1992. "Food Rules and the Traditional Sexual Ideology." In Deane W. Curtin and Lisa M. Heldke (eds). *Cooking, Eating, Thinking: Transformative Philosophies of Food*, pp.109-118. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.

Huhn, Ariana. 2022. "Body, Sex, and Diet in Mozambique". In (eds). Lenore Manderson, Elizabeth Cartwright, Anita Hardon (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Medical Anthropology*, pp. 54-58. London: Routledge.

Jan 20 Film Screening : *The Wedding Banquet* (1993) Dir. Lee Ang

Jan 27 Class 3 Commensality in Hong Kong & Ethnography Practicum 1: Hanging Out

- **How is the Wedding Banquet different from the Common Pot?**

Watson, James. 1987. "From the Common Pot: Feasting with Equals in Chinese Society." *Anthropos* 82(4/6): 389-401.

Optional: Watson, Rubie. 1986. "The Named and the Nameless: Gender and Person in Chinese Society." *American Ethnologist* 13(4):619-631.

Feb 3 No Class

Feb 10 Class 5 Ethnography Practicum 2: Canteen Ethnography

References:

Navicoff, Marc. (n.d.) "Ethnography of the Main Dining Hall."

<https://journeys.dartmouth.edu/marcanovicoff22/ethnography-of-main-dining-hall/>

Gillard, Isabella. 2021. "Diverse Dining: Who is Campus Food Catering For?"

Updated Dec 1

<https://ethnographylab.ca/2022/02/12/diverse-dining-who-is-campus-food-catering-for-by-isabella-gillard-ethnography-of-the-university-2021-focus-on-diversity/>

Mak, Veronica. 2011. "[Southeast Asian Chinese food in tea café and noodle shops in Hong Kong.](#)" In Tan Chee-Beng (ed.) *Chinese Food and Foodways in Southeast Asia and Beyond*, pp. 218-234.

Chan, Selina Ching. 2019. "Tea cafés and the Hong Kong identity: Food culture and hybridity". *China Information* 33(3).

Part II Food and Gender in World Ethnographies

Feb 17 Class 6 The Caribbean: Sugar and Sex for the Powerful

- Sharing of Canteen Ethnography
- **How has Colonialism shaped human relations through food and sex?**

Brennan, Denise. 2002. "Selling Sex for Visas: Sex Tourism as a Stepping Stone to International Migration." In Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschild (eds.), *Global Women: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*, pp. 154-168. New York: Owl Books.

Mintz, Sidney. 2008 [1979]. "Time, Sugar, and Sweetness." In Carole Counihan and Penny Van Esterik (eds) *Food and Culture*, pp. 99-103. London: Routledge.

Feb 24 Class 7 (To be confirmed) Interracial Marriage in the US South: "Blurring the Color Line" Film Screening and Discussion with Director Dr. Crystal Kwok.

March 3 (Reading Week)

Mar 10 Class 8 African Diaspora

To be confirmed: Cooking Demonstration of Fufu

- **What makes a Proper Meal? What does food do for our identity?**

Williams-Forsson, Psyche. 2014. "I Haven't Eaten If I Don't Have My Soup and Fufu": Cultural Preservation through Food and Foodways among Ghanaian Migrants in the United States." [Africa Today 61\(1\):69-87.](#)

Ref: Forsyth, William. 2010. "Other Women Cooked for My Husband: Negotiating Food, Gender, and Identities in an African-American-Ghanaian Household." *Feminist Studies* 36(2):435-461.

March 17 Class 9 "BOODLE FIGHT!" Colonialism, Militarism, and Commensality in

Updated Dec 1
the Philippines

- **How does something enter a “national cuisine”? How does violent history become interpreted as something “good”?**

Bender, Daniel E., and Adrian De Leon. 2017. “Everybody Was Boodle Fighting: Military Histories, Culinary Tourism, and Diasporic Dining.” *Food, Culture & Society* 21 (1): 25–41.
doi:10.1080/15528014.2017.1398469.

Part 3 Food as a Lens into Diversity in Hong Kong

March 24 Class 10 Chungking Mansions Trip 1.45 - 3.45 pm (self-paying light lunch included)

Appadurai, Arjun. 2008. “How to Make a National Cuisine.” In Carole Counihan and Penny Van Esterik (eds) *Food and Culture*, pp. 289-307. London: Routledge.

Optional:

Shum, Terence Chun Tat. 2023. “Performing Culinary Diaspora: Food Practices and Culinary Encounters of South Asians in Hong Kong.” *Journal of Intercultural Studies* 44(1):604-624.

Nichini, Elena and Saba Asim, Aneeta Ansar, Dong Dong. 2024. “Beyond individual responsibility towards healthy food choices: A qualitative study among Pakistani women in Hong Kong,” *Appetite*, 197:107299.

March 31 Class 11 Ramadan in Egypt: Islam, Piety, and Ambivalence

- **How does a religious ritual get interpreted and practised differently?**

Schielke, Samuli. 2009. “Being Good in Ramadan: ambivalence, fragmentation, and the moral self in the lives of young Egyptians.” *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, S24-S40.

Optional Reading: Tayob, Shaheed. 2020. “Muslim Food Culture.” *Oxford Encyclopedia of Research: Anthropology*. 1-15. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

April 7 Class 12 Consultations on Canteen Ethnography/Film Project

Apr 14 Class 13 Presentation and 1-minute film screening