

Updated Sep 1, 2019

ANTH1020

Anthropology: the Study of Culture

Lecture: Monday 10.30am-1.15pm

Venue: Yasumoto International Academic Park LT6

Instructor: Prof. Sealing Cheng (sealing@cuhk.edu.hk) NAH304

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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 this semester, 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.

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 in analyzing contemporary social problems;
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.

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Assessment***:

1. **Class Participation 10%**

Part of your responsibility is regular attendance and participation in class discussion. 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 other students' comments.

2. **1 Response / Presentation to Class Questions (20%)**

3. **1 Response to Chungking Mansions Fieldtrip (1,500 words) (20%) (Due Oct 27)**

4. **One-Minute Film Project 50%**

You have two options for this project.

- i. **“This is a film about the meanings of food and/or sex in my life.”** Make a one-minute film to explain this statement. Use one or two concepts from the course readings to help you frame the film; or
- ii. **“This is a film about how the meanings of food changed for me in 2019.”** Use one or two concepts from the course readings to help you frame the film.
- iii. **Make a one-minute film about a particular dish from any of the societies we have looked at in this course. Use one or two concepts from the course to explain what this dish tells us about that particular society and/or its history. (20%)**

There are two pieces of writing you need to submit for this film project:

1. One-minute film synopsis (a one-page summary of what you intend this film to be about. Explain how the concept you are using helps you execute the film). Due on October 26. Receive feedback from tutor week of November 2. (10%)
2. One-minute film commentary (1,000 words). Due on December 9. (20%)

Some examples of one-minute films are available at:

<http://www.theoneminutes.org/>

<http://www.filminute.com/2011/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/films/oneminutemovies/>

The film is due on **November 23, to be screened in the last class on November 25**. Each person will get to receive comments and suggestions in class (via writing).

*****Alternative arrangements for assessment could be arranged if you decide to go on strike. It may take the form of an oral exam. Please contact Sealing by email or in person.**

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Grade descriptors are as follows for the assessment of this course:

Grade	Overall course
A	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
A-	Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.
B	Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.
C	Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.
D	Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.
F	Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

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Sep 9 Anthropology – What does it mean to be human?

Sep 16 China: Consumer and Sexual Citizenship

Yan, Yunxiang. 2008. "Of Hamburger and Social Space: Consuming McDonald's in Beijing". In Carole Counihan and Penny Van Esterik (eds) *Food and Culture*, pp. 501-522. London: Routledge.

In Class Screening: Three Mosuo Women by Chau Wah-san

Sep 23 Hong Kong – Commensality and Identity

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

Ho, Petula S.Y. 2012 "Hong Kong men's stories of intra-national cross border romances." *Asia Pacific Journal of Social Work and Development* 22(3): 176-186.

Sep 30 Korea: Modernity and Romance

Bak, Sangmee. 2005. From Strange Bitter Concoction to Romantic Necessity: The Social History of Coffee Drinking in South Korea. *Korea Journal* Summer 2005:37-59.

Cheng, Sealing. 2008. "Romancing the Club." In Mark Padilla et al (eds). *Love and Globalization*. Nashville, Tennessee: Vanderbilt University Press.

Oct 7	Public Holiday
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Oct 14 The Caribbean

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

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.

Oct 21 Field Trip to Chungking Mansions

Cusack, Igor. 2000. "[African cuisines: recipes for nationbuilding?](#)" *Journal of African Cultural*

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Studies 13(2):207-225.

Oct 28 The United States: Food and Body Politics

Urla, Jacqueline and Alan Swedlund. 2007. "The Anthropometry of Barbie: Unsettling Ideals of the Feminine Body in Popular Culture." In Jenny Douglas et al (eds). *A Reader in promoting Public Health*, pp. 123-135. London: Sage.

Lindsey, Trevor B. 2019. "A concise history of the US abortion debate." *The Conversation*.
<http://theconversation.com/a-concise-history-of-the-us-abortion-debate-118157>

Nov 4 Great Britain: History and Hierarchy

Hunt, Geoffrey and Sandra Satterlee. 1986. "Cohesion and Division: Drinking in an English Village." *Man* 21(3):521-537

Charsley, Simon. 1988. "The Wedding Cake: History and Meanings." *Man* 99(2):232-241.

Nov 11 Southeast Asia: Ethnicity, Citizenship, and the State

Guest Lecture by Dr. Nitnoi Faming

Ferguson, Jane M. 2014. "Sexual Systems of Highland Burma/ Thailand: Sex and Gender Perceptions of and from Shan Male Sex Workers in Northern Thailand." *South East Asia Research* 22 (1): 24-38.

Nov 18 India: Modernization and Changing Social Relations

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.

Nanda, Serena. 1999. "The Hijras of India: Cultural and Individual Dimensions of an Institutionalized Third Gender." In Richard Parker and Peter Aggleton (eds) *Culture, Society and Sexuality: A Reader*, pp. 226-238. London: UCL Press.

Nov 25 Screening of One-minute Films and Review