ANTH 2310/UGEC 2653: GENDER AND CULTURE

Lecture: Thursday, 1:30pm – 3:15pm
Venue: NAH 213
Lecturer: Dr FAMING, Manynooch
Email: nychma@cuhk.edu.hk
Office hour: By appointment
Tutor: Zhong Xinle (email: xlzhong@link.cuhk.edu.hk)
Tutorials: Thurs: A: 3.30-4.15 (NAH213). B: 3.30-4.15 (NAH 401)

Course Description

‘Gender’ is one of the restless concepts in our everyday life. We talk about gender role, worry about gender gap, question whether our ideas are not gender-biased or gender specific while face such challenging terms as gender-bending, gender-blending, gender-reversed or gender equality. What is ‘gender’? Who or what defines our ‘gender”? And, why do we care so much about how to correctly behave like a ‘man’ or a ‘woman”? Gender is one of the basic principles of social life, and it takes different forms in different cultures and societies. This course is an introduction to the anthropology of gender. We will explore through a historical, political and socio-cultural context. It aims to introduce students to issues revolving around gender through selected contemporary socio-cultural cases from around the world. Some cases show contrasting views while some merely showing how culture uniquely nurtures gender under the waves of economic development, globalization and advanced mass communication.

Course Objectives:
By the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. Gain a good understanding on how various cultures construct gender concept, including relations and gender ideologies
2. Develop an anthropological understanding of how gender norms and values change in different socio-cultural contexts
3. Critically evaluate the existing gender ideology and develop one’s own gender perspective

Course Assessments
1. Participation 20%
2. In class test 40%
3. Final Essay 40%
Course Assessments details

A. **Tutorial Participation** 20%
   Prompt attendance at each tutorial meeting, informed participation, and completion of all assigned readings. Every student is expected to be an active member in class and in contributing to a meaningful learning experience. Listening carefully to others, raising relevant questions, posing alternative interpretations, bringing in outside material to enrich class discussion via conference or other means are just some of the way to do so. How ready and conscientious you are in class will directly affect how much the whole class could gain from the course. Students will prepare at least two questions. Make sure that your questions have the capacity to generate the group discussion and must be drawn from your own understanding of the assigned readings. If you are not sure of your question, you can submit to me or the TA prior to the tutorial meeting.

B. **In Class Test** 40%
   The course test will be held on Week11 of the course. Those who fail to attend must provide evidence of medical certificate in order to sit the alternative test. The test does not involve ‘rote-learning’—that is, your memory of details such as historical dates, events, personages—but, rather, tests your understanding of analytical concepts and broad historical and cultural patterns. It consists of two parts: a) ten multiple-choice questions and ten short answer questions (worth 1% each); and b) one essay question (worth 20%). For the essay, you will be able to choose from several questions. All test questions will be derived from lectures as well as assigned readings.

C. **Final Essay (Due December 12, 2019)** 40%
   There are two options for your final essay with the length of (not counting references) 2,500 words (in English). Choose one option:
   
   **Option 1:** Conduct 2 interviews: one woman and one man of Asia (e.g., Pakistanis, Nepalese, Chinese (i.e., Hong Kong, mainland and Taiwan), Koreans, Japanese, Filipinos, Indonesian, Singaporeans, Thai, or Vietnamese) who live or have recently settled in Hong Kong or those in your circles of friends. Design questions around the theme of family, work, sexuality, inequality, etc. You may include other relevant areas such as religion and politics etc., that are considered important in the experience of the interviewees. Analyze how the persons’ gender affects their experiences and provide a conclusion through your own gender perspective.

   **Option 2:** Choose one creative work (i.e., music, images, novels, essays, films, sculpture, etc.) and use idea and argument you learned in this class to write a discussion about that work. You may provide a critique or reflections as a way to demonstrate your gender perspective, for example. You are required to cite some works and discussions we have in this course.

   Plan early and discuss your project with the instructor/TA latest by week 9.

Please name your final paper file **ANTH2310 or UGEC2653 Final Paper (1 or 2) Last name First name**, and your VeriGuide receipt file **ANTH2310 or UGEC2653 VeriGuide Last name First name**.

Submit the soft copy first to Veriguide. Attach the Veriguide receipt to the hard copy and submit it to the Anthropology Dept Office on or before the due date. Late submissions will attract a penalty.

**Notes for written assignments**

The University adopts a policy of zero tolerance on plagiarism. Using someone else’s ideas or words without citing the source is plagiarism. (This includes taking material from the Internet without citing the website, or my lectures!). Please familiarize yourself with the CUHK academic honesty policy at [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/).

Week 1 (Sept. 5): Introduction

Week 2 (Sept. 12): Universalism and Gender
Optional:

Week 3 (Sept. 19): Construction of the gender

Week 4 (Sept. 26): Gender and religion
Optional

Week 5 (Oct. 3): Gender and Political Economy

Week 6 (Oct. 10): Gender and Double Statutes

**Week 7 (Oct. 17): Gender and globalization**


Optional


*Optional for background readings*


**Week 8 (Oct. 24): Gender in media and technology**


**Week 9 (Oct. 31): The gendered body**


**Week 10 (Nov. 7): No Class (87th Congregation for the Conferment of Bachelor’s Degrees and Master’s Degrees)**

**Week 11 (Nov.14): Gender and Sexuality**


Optional


**Week 12 (Nov. 21): In Class Test (No tutorial)**

**Week 13 (Nov. 28): Gender and Politics**


**Week 14 (Dec. 5) Equality a Utopia?**

Tam, Siumi Maria, Anthony Fung, Lucetta Kam, and Mario Liong. 2009. Re-gendering Hong Kong Men in Social, Physical and Discursive Space. In *Mainstreaming Gender in Hong Kong Society*. Fanny Cheung and Eleanor Holroyd, eds. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press.


**Policies**

**Late Submission:** Late submission will suffer a fraction of a grade per day. For example, an A will become an A-.


**Laptop Policy:** This course discourages students from using mobile phones, tablets, or laptops in class.

**Grade Descriptors**

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Descriptors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes. Demonstrate the ability to analyze, integrate and apply the knowledge learnt in the class and through their research, in a manner that surpasses normal expectations. Demonstrate the ability to express clearly new ideas based on knowledge gained. Participate actively in the class discussion and group presentations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Generally outstanding performance on almost all learning outcomes. Demonstrate the ability to state and apply the knowledge learnt in the class and through their research, in a manner that is logical and comprehensive. Participate actively in the class discussion and group presentations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Substantial performance on almost all learning outcomes. Demonstrate the ability to state and partially apply the knowledge learnt in the class and through their research in a satisfactory manner. Participate satisfactorily in the class discussion and group presentations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes. Demonstrate the ability to state and apply the knowledge learnt in the class and through research, in a manner that is somewhat fragmented. Demonstrate some participation in the class discussion and group presentations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes. Demonstrate the ability to state and sometimes apply the knowledge learnt in the course in a manner that is broadly correct. Demonstrate little participation in the class discussion and presentations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.</td>
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