Time: Wednesday, 6:30 - 9:15 pm  
Venue: NAH11  
Lecturer: Dr. Ju-chen Chen 陳如珍 (juchen@cuhk.edu.hk)  
Office hour: Tuesday, 2:00 - 3:00 pm  

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the anthropology of gender and sexuality. Some questions we start with include: What is gender? Does gender (still) matter? Do our bodies define our sexual preferences? Are there different ways of being masculine and feminine? What room is there for ambiguity in gender? How can one account for differences in status between women and men? Do the development of technology, changing political and economic structures affect our gender? Anthropological, cross-cultural studies help us to contemplate taken for granted beliefs regarding gender and sexuality. Gender politics, in essence, address difference, inequality, and system of oppression. Reflecting upon how gender became a category of analysis for anthropologists, we bring to the fore the relationship between culture and power. This course has two parts. In the first part, Gender as a Cultural Construct, we review various theoretical orientations that shape the anthropological understanding of gender. In the second part, The Production of Difference, we examine and reflect upon gender issues that concern us in daily contexts through various ethnographic research.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:
• examine how gender becomes an analytical category for anthropology;
• understand gender and sexual diversities in different cultures;
• analyze how gender intersects with other forms of differences and understand hierarchies in our societies;
• cultivate critical reflections about gender stereotypes and choose one’s standpoint;
• also, do independent research on gender-related topics.

Readings:

This course uses various articles and book chapters. All required materials are available on Blackboard.

However, we will read several chapters from the following book. You are encouraged to acquire a copy for your reference.

Mascia-Lees, Frances E. and Nancy Johnson Black 1999  Gender and Anthropology

Requirement and Assessment:

This seminar course is discussion intensive. You are expected to finish all required readings (marked with an asterisk *) beforehand and participate actively in class discussion.

Class participation 10%
Seminar facilitation 15%
One lecture outline 15%
One exam question 10%
Final essay 50%

Participation marks reflect your engagement in lectures. While the quality of a student’s comments matters, what is even more critical is whether you have prepared for the class and actively engaged in the discussion.

Seminar Facilitation: From week 3, students will take turns to be the seminar facilitators. Facilitators are in charge of 1) preparing a one-page outline (keywords, points or questions) before class and 2) facilitating seminar discussion. Facilitation is the best way to help students develop a thorough understanding of a topic and quickly learn how to participate in a seminar actively. I will give the facilitators full support and will wrap up the class in the last 30 minutes.

Lecture outline: You will choose one week to write an outline of that seminar after the class. A good outline synthesizes your learning in the seminar. It is a good practice for you to reflect on your learning. The outline should be no more than one page and is due in class in the week after the seminar of your choice. This assignment should be submitted no later than week 11.

Exam question: You will choose one required reading and write up an exam question for it. What should a student learn from this work? What would be a good question to facilitate learning? The question should be a prompt for a short essay and should be no more than a short paragraph. The assignment is due in class no later than week 10.
Please note that the seminar you facilitate, the lecture outline you choose to write for, and the required reading for your exam question should fall in three different weeks.

Final Essay: An analytical essay that elaborates on the gender-related topic of your choice (length for reference: 2500 words in English; 5000 words in Chinese). Students are required to use materials from this course to develop their arguments. However, one can undoubtedly use extra materials too. This essay gives students a chance to synthetically review what they have learned in classes and use them to develop a more profound and critical understanding of their topics. You will submit a rough topic of your choice with a brief explanation of why you are interested in the topic and how you plan to study and write it up in class on 30 October (week 9). The completed final paper is then due on 6 December.

Formats and other requirements: 1) Please use double-space setting, font size 12 or larger, and standard margins. 2) All writings (except for those done in class) must be submitted to VeriGuide (https://academic.veriguide.org/academic/login_CUHK.jspx). An assignment without a signed declaration from VeriGuide will not be graded.

Extra reminder about essay writing: A good essay is a concise one with a clear thesis or argument. It shows me your curiosity, creativity, and organizational skills. As long as it is succinct, the length of it is not a top concern.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Overall course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes</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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Course Schedule

I: Gender as a Cultural Construct

Week 01 (Sep. 4): Introduction
Syllabus and course overview
No reading due

Week 02 (Sep. 11) Gender in Cross-cultural Perspective


Video: Oppressed Majority (Majorité Opprimée) (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4UWxIVvT1A) (by Eleonore Pourriat, 2014, 11 mins)

Week 03 (Sep. 18): Division of Labor, Patriarchy, Capitalism


Week 04 (Sep. 25): Universal Binary, Hierarchy and Intersexual

Video: Me, My Sex and I. BBC One. (2011, 50 mins) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87XvVdLaWT8)

Week 05 (Oct. 2): Body, Sexuality and the End of Normal


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II: The Production of Difference

Week 06 (Oct. 9): Family, Household and Work

Week 07 (Oct. 16): Modern State and Gender
Video: Through Chinese Women’s Eyes (1997, 52 mins)

Week 08 (Oct. 23): Manhood and Neoliberalism

*Final Essay topic and short explanation are due no later than 30 October in class.

Week 09 (Oct. 30): “Alternative” Sexualities

*Exam Question is due no later than 6 November in class.

Week 10 (Nov. 6): Intersectionality: Gender, Class, and Race

*Lecture outline is due no later than 13 November in class.

Week 11 (Nov. 13): Consumption, Performance and Gender


Video: Killing Us Softly 4. (2010, 45 mins)
Video: Dove — the Evolution of a Model https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hibyAJSW8U
Video: Barbie — You Can Be Anything https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1vnsqbnAkk

Week 12 (Nov. 20): Migration and Gender Diversity
Week 13 (Nov. 27): Rethinking Gender and Wrap Up

*Final essay is due on 6 December at NAH407.

Policies

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

Academic Honesty: You are required to cite properly (guidelines: http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ant/tstyle.doc) and please refer to the university website (http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/index.htm and http://www.ilc.cuhk.edu.hk/english/resource/referencing_avoidingplagiarism1.pdf) to avoid plagiarism.

Laptop Policy: Please do not use mobile phones, laptops, or tablets in class. Browsing websites, checking social media, and texting or answering phone calls distract not only you but your classmates and me! Research has also shown that taking notes by hands is much better than on your laptop. See: https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/17/08/note-taking-low-tech-often-best

Recording: No (video and audio) recording is permitted in this class. Please pay proper respect to your classmates and me. We would all like to ensure a space of free and open discussion of ideas. If you have any needs for recording, please consult me first.