

Lecture: Tuesday 13:30 – 15:15
 Tutorials: 1) Tuesday 15:30 – 16:15
 2) TBA

Lecturer: Wai-Man TANG NAH302, wymantang@cuhk.edu.hk
 (Office hours: Tuesday 16:30-17:15 or by appointment)
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Course Description

This course will introduce the key topics and concepts in cultural anthropology. All of us live in society. From small issues in our daily lives e.g. your interaction with your classmates in the classroom to large critical issues in the world, e.g. the Ebola outbreak, all of them can be understood in anthropological terms. The course will examine different cross-cultural examples and teach us how to understand the examples from a holistic perspective. The purpose is to train us not to take things for granted but to develop a critical mind and a better understanding of others as well as ourselves. In this course, you will come across this kind of questions: What is culture? What is society? Why is there inequality? What are the functions of different social institutions? What are their norms? Are there any alternatives to these norms?

What you will learn:

Student taking this course will:

- learn how to use anthropological perspectives to understand our society and other people;
- appreciate the diversity of culture; and
- acquire a critical mind to examine any social issues.

Readings and Books:

Most of the readings are from these two books:

Lavenda, Robert H., and Emily Schultz, 2017. *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education (6th edition).

Spradley, James, and David W. McCurdy, eds. 2012 & 2015. *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th & 15th edition).

You are required to read the selected articles in Spradley and McCurdy (2012 & 2015).

Course Requirements:

Response Papers*:	50% (25% x 2)
Research Paper:	50%

1) Response Papers (50%)

Choose two weekly topics and write two 3-4 page response papers. Response papers should discuss the topic with reference to the assigned readings. Instead of merely summarizing the readings, you should raise critical points of views, for example, what new insights you have got, what limitations you have identified, what follow-up questions have come to your mind, etc. Submit your first response paper on or before **16 November** and second response paper on or before **8 December**.

2) Research Paper (50%):

Write a 6-7 page research paper on the topic of “cultural group” by conducting an in-depth interview with an informant. Fieldwork is optional. The aim of the research is to analyze the social and cultural meanings of a cultural group to a person. You may delve into the following questions: your informant’s career in the group, his/her role and identity in the group, forms of capitals acquired and/or lost in the group, and so on. Your informants’ experience is not necessarily static but varies spatially and temporally. Identify the context and complexity, and use the concepts discussed in the lesson for your analysis. If you use other people’s ideas or words in the paper, you should cite the sources and list the sources under “References” in the end. Information about the CUHK academic honesty policy is available at

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. Submit your paper on or before **15 December**.

After finishing your written assignments, please submit soft copies to both VeriGuide and the course website (Blackboard). Hard copies are not required.

The paper should be written in the following format: Double line spacing, Times New Roman, and font 12 (either Chinese or English).

Please submit your assignment on time. Marks will be deducted (i.e. one point per day) for late submission.

*If face-to-face teaching is resumed later in the course, fieldtrip will be arranged. You can choose to write a 3-4 page ethnographic paper to substitute one response paper. The ethnographic paper should include your field observations and discussion with reference to the assigned readings. Instead of merely describing your field observations or summarizing the readings, you should raise critical points of views. Submit your paper **two weeks** after the fieldtrip.

Course Schedule:

(Please note that tutorials take place after the lecture.)

*=required reading

- 1) Introduction (8 Sep.) *No tutorial*
- 2) Culture and Anthropology (15 Sep.)
Lavenda and Schultz. 2017. "Chapter 1: Anthropology." & "Chapter 2: Culture." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.1-24. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
*Gmelch, George. 2012. "Nice Girls Don't Talk to Rastas." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.31-36. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
*Abu-Lughod, Lila. 2012. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?" In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.208-16. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
- 3) Expressive Culture (I): Meaning-Making and Language (22 Sep.)
Lavenda and Schultz. 2017. "Chapter 3: Meaning-Making and Language." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.25-44. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
*Tannen, Deborah. 2012. "Conversation Style: Talking on the Job." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp. 61-68. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
*Miner, Horace. 2012. "Bodily Rituals among the Nacirema." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.287-92. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
- 4) Expressive Culture (II): Worldview and Religion (29 Sep.)
Lavenda and Schultz. 2017. "Chapter 4: Worldview and Religion." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.45-57. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
*Freed, Stanley A., and Ruth S. Freed. 2012. "Taraka's Ghost." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp. 260-65. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
*Mueller, Rachel. 2015. "The Worst Lover: Boyfriend Spirits in Senegal." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.258-65. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (15th edition).
- 5) Expressive Culture (III): Sports (6 Oct.)
Lavenda and Schultz. 2017. "Chapter 4: Worldview and Religion." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.45-57. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
*Gmelch, George. 2012. "Baseball Magic." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp. 266-74. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
*McCurdy, David M. 2015. "Motorcycles, Membership, and Belonging." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.209-14. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (15th edition).
- 6) The Dimensions of Social Organization (13 Oct.)
Lavenda and Schultz. 2017. "Chapter 5: The Dimensions of Social Organization." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.58-69. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
*Fish, Jeffery. 2012. "Mixed Blood." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.217-26. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
*Rogozen-Soltar, Mikaela. 2015. "Becoming Muslim in Europe." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.192-99. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (15th edition).

- 7) Sex, Gender, and Sexuality (20 Oct.)
 Lavenda and Schultz. 2017. "Chapter 6: Sex, Gender and Sexuality." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.70-86. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
 *Rolston, Jessica Smith. 2015. "Women in the Mine." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.128-35 Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (15th edition).
 *Bourgois, Philippe. 2012. "Poverty, Office Work, and the Crack Alternative" In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.125-35. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
- 8) Relatedness: Kinship, Marriage, Family and Friendship (27 Oct.)
 Lavenda and Schultz. 2017. "Chapter 7: Relatedness: Kinship, Marriage, Family and Friendship." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.87-103. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
 *Wolf, Margery. 2012. "Uterine Families and the Women's Community." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.179-84. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
 *Fioratta, Susanna. 2015. "Marriage and Adulthood in West Africa." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.170-76. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (15th edition).
- 9) Political Anthropology (3 Nov.)
 Lavenda and Schultz. 2017. "Chapter 8: Political Anthropology." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.104-20. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
 *Harris, Marvin. 2012. "Life without Chiefs." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp. 238-45. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
 *Spradley, James, and David McCurdy. 2015. "Law and Order." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.226-36. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (15th edition).
- 10) Economic Anthropology (10 Nov.)
 Lavenda and Schultz. 2017. "Chapter 9: Economic Anthropology." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.121-37. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
 *Cronk, Lee. 2012. "Reciprocity and the Power of Giving." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.119-24. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
 *Nordstrom, Carolyn. 2015. "Illegal Economies and the Untold Story of the Amputees." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.245-52. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (15th edition).
- 11) Globalization (17 Nov.)
 Lavenda and Schultz. 2017. "Chapter 10: Globalization." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.138-57. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
 *Bestor, Theodore. 2012. "How Sushi Went Global." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.296-305. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
 *Guneratne, Arjun, and Kate Bjork. 2012. "Village Walks: Tourism and Globalization among the Tharu of Nepal." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.306-15. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
- 12) The Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Medicine (24 Nov.)
 Lavenda and Schultz. 2017. "Chapter 11: The Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Medicine." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.158-71. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
 *Barrett, Ron. 2012. "Medical Anthropology: Leprosy on the Ganges." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.351-58. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
 *Crate, Susan. 2015. "We are Going Underwater." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.88-95. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (15th edition).
- 13) To be determined (1 Dec.)

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.