ANTH 1410/UGEC 1835      Culture of Hong Kong
Fall 2020

Lecture: Wed. 11:30-1:15
Tutorials: Various: We will largely follow the existing tutorial slots, but we have a degree of flexibility
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Teacher: Gordon Mathews, NAH 409, cmgordon@cuhk.edu.hk

In this course, we will explore the cultural panorama of Hong Kong from an anthropological perspective. We will examine Hong Kong’s Chinese traditional heritage; its colonial legacy; its senses of cultural identity as formed over the past fifty years; ethnic minorities in the city; gender, marriage and family; language and education; religion; consumption; wealth, poverty and housing; migration; and finally Hong Kong culture today and tomorrow, particularly considering Hong Kong’s recent upheavals. The basic perspective of the course is that Hong Kong is both a Chinese and a global city in its history and culture, and this class will view Hong Kong from both perspectives, balancing them. The essence of the course is critical thinking: multiple viewpoints will be read about and discussed, and, using all the different readings and discussions in the class, you will be asked to think for yourselves about Hong Kong, China, and the world.

Learning Outcomes
After taking this course, you will be able to
a) comprehend the cultural complexity of Hong in a wide range of areas;
b) understand Hong Kong from an anthropological perspective, particularly in terms of Hong Kong cultural identity; and

c) think more critically and broadly about Hong Kong culture and society past, present, and future

Grading
The course will be graded as follows:
1) take-home midterm examination (30%): 6 pages, handed out Oct. 14, due Oct. 28
2) take-home final examination (50%): 10 pages, handed out Nov. 25, due Dec. 11.
3) class participation (20%)

The take-home midterm and final examinations will focus on your comprehension of the readings and lectures. These exams will require you to synthesize what you have learned in thinking more deeply about anthropological questions relating to Hong Kong’s culture and society.

Required readings are available on Blackboard for all registered students. Students are required by university policy to submit soft copies of all papers to VeriGuide. Check the website http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/ for how to submit papers through VeriGuide.
Grade Descriptors

A  Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes, through work that has creatively synthesized course materials and key ideas, to the extent that you show a truly deep understanding of the course in all its ideas. Your arguments in your work are logical and cohesive, the discussion is well-organized, and the writing is clear. All relevant course materials have been fully utilized in your work, and additional material as well has been used from your own research.

A- Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes, through work has creatively synthesized course materials and key ideas. Your arguments in your work are logical and cohesive, the discussion is well-organized, and the writing is clear. All relevant course materials have been fully utilized in your work, and perhaps additional material as well from your own research.

B+  Substantial performance on all learning outcomes. Your arguments in your work are largely logical and cohesive, the discussion is generally well-organized, and the writing is clear. Most relevant course materials have been fully utilized in your work. There are areas for improvement with respect to building a cohesive argument, organizing the discussion, communicating clearly, and/or identifying relevant evidence and using all course materials, but by and large you have turned in good, solid work.

B  Satisfactory performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall satisfactory performance. Your arguments in your work are somewhat logical and cohesive, the discussion is somewhat well-organized, and the writing is somewhat clear. Much relevant course materials have been fully utilized in your work. There are areas for improvement with respect to building a cohesive argument, organizing the discussion, communicating clearly, and/or identifying relevant evidence.

B- Adequate performance on all learning outcomes, OR satisfactory performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall largely adequate performance. Your arguments in your work are partially logical and cohesive, the discussion is partially organized, and the writing is somewhat clear. Some relevant course materials have been fully utilized in your work. There are areas for improvement with respect to building a cohesive argument, organizing the discussion, communicating clearly, and/or identifying relevant evidence.

C+ Adequate performance on the majority of learning outcomes. Your written work shows some effort, but course materials have not been sufficiently engaged. The argument and the writing is not clear, and/or there is less than full evidence for statements and claims made. There are areas for improvement with respect to building a cohesive argument, organizing the discussion, communicating clearly, and/or identifying relevant evidence.

C, C- Barely adequate performance on a number of learning outcomes. These grade will be awarded to students who have missed a large number of classes and/or have failed to use course materials in their written answers.
Sept. 9: Introduction: Hong Kong as a Global Laboratory
Optional reading:
--Grant Evans and Maria Tam, 1997, “Introduction: The Anthropology of Contemporary Hong Kong,” in Grant Evans and Maria Tam Siu-mi, Hong Kong: The Anthropology of a Chinese Metropolis, p. 1-21

Sept. 16: Hong Kong’s Chinese Tradition

Sept. 23: Hong Kong’s Colonial Legacy

Sept. 30: Hong Kong Identity

Oct. 7: Ethnic Minorities
--Jason Y. Ng, 2014, “Maid in Hong Kong,” in No City for Slow Men: Hong Kong’s Quirks and Quandaries Laid Bare, p. 209-223

Oct. 14: Gender, Marriage, Family
--Petula Sik-ying Ho, 2014, “An Embarrassment of Riches: Good Men Behaving Badly in Hong Kong,” in Deborah S. Davis and Sara L. Friedman, Wives, Husbands and Lovers: Marriage and Sexuality in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Urban China, p. 165-188

I’ll hand out the take-home midterm exam Oct. 14; it is due Oct. 28

Oct. 21: Language and Education
Optional reading:
Oct. 28: Religion
-- Jason Y. Ng, 2018, “Ghost of Yulan Past,” in Hong Kong Noir, pp. 19-32
Optional reading:

Nov. 4: Consumption
-- Selina Ching Chan, 2019, “Tea Cafes and the Hong Kong Identity: Food Culture and Hybridity,” China Information 33(3), P. 311-328

Nov. 11: Wealth, Poverty, Housing
-- Jason Y. Ng, 2015, "Lords and Serfs," in No City for Slow Men, p. 22-32

Nov. 18: Migration

Nov. 25: Hong Kong Since the Handover: A City of Protest
-- Jeffie Lam, 2020, “The Dynamics of Demonization,” in Zuraidah Ibrahim and Jeffie Lam, eds., Rebel City: Hong Kong’s Year of Water and Fire, p. 199-208

I’ll hand out the take-home final exam Nov, 25; it is due Dec. 11

Dec. 2: The Future of Hong Kong/Summary of Course
-- Zuraidah Ibrahim and Jeffie Lam, 2020, “A Pause for Breath,” in Zuraidah Ibrahim and Jeffie Lam, eds., Rebel City: Hong Kong’s Year of Water and Fire, 421-450
Assigned or Recommended Books on Hong Kong Culture and Society


Cheng, Joseph Yu-shek, Jacky Chai-kiu Cheung, and Beatrice Kit-fun Leung, eds. 2017. *Mainlandization of Hong Kong: Pressures and Responses*. Hong Kong: City University of Hong Kong.


Erni, John Nguyet and Lisa Yuk-ming Leung. 2014. *Understanding South Asian Minorities in Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: University of Hong Kong Press.


Goodstadt, Leo F. 2018. *A City Mismanaged: Hong Kong’s Struggle for Survival*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.


Mathews, Gordon and Tai-lok Lui, eds. 2001. *Consuming Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.


Ng, Jason Y. 2014. *No City for Slow Men: Hong Kong’s Quirks and Quandaries Laid Bare*. Hong Kong: Blacksmith Books.


O’Conner, Paul. 2012. *Islam in Hong Kong: Muslims and Everyday Life in China’s World City*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.


