

ANTH 1100

UNDERSTANDING ANTHROPOLOGY

The Chinese University of Hong Kong | Fall 2022

Lecture: Monday 2:30pm-4:15pm (UCA 104)
Tutorial 1: Thursday 12:30pm-1:15pm (UCC 109)
Tutorial 2: Thursday 3:30pm-4:15pm (UCC 208)

Faculty Instructor: ZHANG Chaoxiong
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Office Hours: Thursday 9:30-11:30 am, and by appointment (NAH 323)

Teaching Assistant: Amy LAM (1155108785@cuhk.edu.hk)

Course Description

This team-taught class will teach you what it means to practice anthropology. After an initial class on how to think anthropologically, the course will turn to examine different topics in anthropology, as practiced by department's different teachers. Each week, a different teacher will discuss her or his own research and teaching, in the context of one of the anthropological fields, which enable you to better understand different ways in which anthropology is learned, practiced, and pursued.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students taking this course will:

- learn about how anthropology is practiced in different areas and fields;
- know the the basics of how to write paper and how to pursue their studies as anthropology students in the university;
- know the department's different teachers and different ways in which they envision anthropology;
- have a broad overall sense of what anthropology as a discipline consists of.

Reading Materials:

All readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Requirements:

- **Response Papers (25% x 3 = 75%):** Write **three 3-4 page** papers on the topic “How and why anthropologists study _____.” Response papers should address the question with reference to the assigned readings. Instead of merely summarizing the readings, you should raise critical points of views. This course will be divided into three sections: I) Weeks 3 – 6, II) Weeks 7 – 10, and III) Weeks 11 – 13. Students should choose one of the topics given in one section and submit their paper before the start of next section (**Due dates: Oct 17, Nov 14, Dec 5**).
- **Short Essay (20%):** Write an essay on the topic “What is Anthropology?” How is anthropology different from other disciplines? Is anthropology relevant today? Based on what we have learned in this course and other references, write a **3-4 page paper** to answer these questions. A minimum of **three** academic references are required. Submit your paper on or before **12 December**.
- **Participation (5%):** Students are expected to submit at least **one** question/comment in **no fewer than 5 different weeks** of the semester. Please post the question/comment (about 50-100 words) based on that week’s readings and lecture in the “Discussion Board” section of the course Blackboard site **no later than 2:30 pm** on the day before your tutorial section to receive credit. Each post accounts for **1%** of your final grade.

*After finishing your written assignments, please submit soft copies to both VeriGuide and to the course website (Blackboard). Hard copies are not required. When you name your files, please indicate the topics that you are responding to.

*The paper should be written in the following format: Double line spacing, Times New Roman, and font 12. Please submit your assignment on time. Marks will be deducted for late submission.

Course Schedule **(Subject to modification)**

INTRODUCTION

- **Week 1 [Sep 5] Introduction: What is Anthropology? (Chaoxiong Zhang)**
 - No Readings
- **Week 2 [Sep 12]** 🟡
 - No Class

SECTION I

- **Week 3 [Sep 19] How and Why Anthropologists Study Health (Venera Khalikova)**
 - Singer, Merrill., Hans Baer, Debbi Long, Alex Pavlotski. 2020. "What Health Anthropologists Do." In *Introducing Medical Anthropology: A Discipline in Action*. Third Edition. Rowman & Littlefield pp. 37-64.
 - Venera R. Khalikova. 2020. A local genie in an imported bottle: Ayurvedic commodities and healthy eating in North India, *Food, Culture & Society*, 23:2, 173-192.
- **Week 4 [Sep 26] How and Why Anthropologists Study Economy (Tim Rosenkranz)**
 - Tsing, Anna. 2015. "Chapters 5". In: A. Tsing. *The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the possibility of life in capitalist ruins*. pp. 73 – 84. Princeton: Princeton University Press
 - Rosenkranz, Tim. 2019. "From Contract to Speculation: New Relations of Work and Production in the Field of Travel Journalism." *Work, Employment & Society* 33 (4): 613-630.
- **Week 5 [Oct 3] How and Why Anthropologists Study Environment (Sidney Cheung)**
 - Cheung, Sidney. 2017. "New Orleans, New Territories." In Yiu-Wai Chu, ed., *Hong Kong Culture and Society in the New Millennium: Hong Kong as Method*, pp.79-90. Singapore: Springer.
 - Lee, Miriam, and Sidney Cheung. 2017. "The World is Your Oyster." *Hong Kong Discovery* 98:14-43.
- **Week 6 [Oct 10] How to Write an Academic Paper (ELT Teacher)**

SECTION II

- **Week 7 [Oct 17] How and Why Anthropologists Study Sports (Wyman Tang)**
 - Alter, Joseph S. 2000. "Kabaddi, a National Sport of India: The Internationalism of Nationalism and the Foreignness of Indianness." In Dyck, Noel, ed. 2000. *Games, Sports and Cultures*, pp. 83-115. Oxford: Berg.
 - Tam, Siumi Maria, Wai-man Tang, and Alan Tse. 2019. "Who Needs Intercultural Education? Making Cultural Diversity Work for Hong Kong." *Asia Pacific Journal of Contemporary Education and Communication Technology* 5(2):47-57.
- **Week 8 [Oct 24] How and Why Anthropologists Study Ethics (Teresa Kuan)**
 - Shepard, Jim. 2009. "Your Fate Hurtles Down at You." *Electric Literature* 1:11-35.
 - Kuan, Teresa. 2021. "Vicarious Responsibility and the Problem of 'Too Much': Moral Luck from the Perspective of Ordinary Ethics." *The Monist* 104(2):168-81.

- **Week 9 [Oct 31] How and Why Anthropologists Study the Illicit (Gordon Mathews)**
 - Mathews, Gordon. 2012. "I Don't Fit Anywhere, but then, Anthropologists Shouldn't Fit Anywhere." Paper delivered at the East Asian Anthropological Association Meeting, Hong Kong, July 6-8, 2012, pp.1-6.
 - Mathews, Gordon. 2011. "Laws." In *Ghetto at the Center of the World: Chungking Mansions, Hong Kong*, pp.151-194. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- **Week 10 [Nov 7] ELT Feedback Session (ELT Teacher)**

SECTION III

- **Week 11 [Nov 14] How and Why Anthropologists Study the Past (Weng Cheong Lam)**
 - Johnson, Matthew. 1999. "Common Sense is not Enough." In *Archaeological Theory: An Introduction*, pp.1-12. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.
 - Renfrew, Colin, and Paul Bahn. 2011. *Archaeology Essentials: Theories, Methods, and Practice*, pp.8-11. London: Thames & Hudson.
 - Flannery, Kent. 1982. "The Golden Marshalltown: A Parable for the Archaeology of the 1980s." *American Anthropologist* 84(2):265-278.
- **Week 12 [Nov 21] How and Why Anthropologists Study Death (Andrew Kipnis)**
 - Kipnis, Andrew. 2021. "Chapter One: The Funeral of Mr Wang" & "Chapter Two: Of Transitions and Transformations". In *The Funeral of Mr. Wang: Life, Death, and Ghosts in Urbanizing China*, pp.1-27. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- **Week 13 [Nov 28] How and Why Anthropologists Study Care & Why does Anthropology Matter? (Chaoxiong Zhang)**
 - Biehl, Joao. 2012. "Care and Disregard." In Fassin, Didier, ed. *A Companion to Moral Anthropology*, pp. 242-263. Chichester, West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.
 - Zhang, Chaoxiong. 2020. "Translating *Guān'ài* in the People's War on Drugs: Enacting Relations of Care in China's State-Run Methadone Maintenance Treatment Program." *East Asian Science, Technology and Society: An International Journal* 14: 85-108.

Course Policies:

- **Absence policy:** Come to class on time and having completed the readings. Attendance will be taken for the tutorials. You are allowed one unexcused absence (excused absence requires a written documentation). For each unexcused absence thereafter, three points will be deducted from the final grade.
- **Penalties for late work:** All assignments are due on the scheduled day and time. No extensions will be given except under extraordinary circumstances. One-third of a letter grade will be deducted for each day an assignment is submitted late.
- **Class Culture:** Classes are a safe atmosphere where ideas can be discussed and different opinions respected.
- **Academic Integrity:** The Chinese University of Hong Kong places very high importance on academic honesty, and adopts a policy of *zero tolerance* on academic dishonesty. Any such offence will lead to disciplinary action including possibly termination of studies at the University. Students should know how to properly use source material and how to avoid plagiarism. Detailed guidelines and examples for the acknowledgement of sources can be found on the University's website at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. All papers must be submitted through VeriGuide.
- **Writing Assistance:** For additional help on your writing, consult the expert staff of the **English Language Teaching Unit (ELT)**. <https://eltu.cuhk.edu.hk/pts/index.html>

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.