

## **ANTH 1020**

# **ANTHROPOLOGY: THE STUDY OF GLOBAL HUMANITY**

The Chinese University of Hong Kong | Fall 2023

Lecture: Tuesday 1:30pm-3:15pm (YIA LT6)  
Tutorial 1: Tuesday 3:30pm-4:15pm (YIA 507)  
Tutorial 2: Tuesday 4:30pm-5:15pm (YIA 507)  
Tutorial 3: Tuesday 5:30pm-6:15pm (YIA 507)  
Tutorial 4: TBD

Faculty Instructor: ZHANG Chaoxiong  
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Office Hours: by appointment (NAH 323)  
Teaching Assistants:  
TBD

### **Course Description:**

This course introduces students to the basics of anthropology, its role within the humanities, and its relevance to modern-day society. It addresses the basic question of how our cultural and social shaping in large part makes us what we are as human beings. The course focuses on the similarities and differences in human societies and cultures, in order to promote a fuller and deeper understanding of the nature and meaning of being human in today's world. This term, this course will focus on the theme of “modernity and human development.” We will explore the diversity of culture and humanity by looking at the impact of modernity in different parts of the world.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will acquire a holistic understanding of the world's cultural diversity and human universals;
2. Students will be able, using anthropological modes of understanding, to think critically and perceptively about one's society and the world;
3. Students will acquire skills in analyzing contemporary social problems.

### **Required Texts:**

All readings will be posted on Blackboard.

### Course Requirements:

- **Tutorial Attendance and Participation (10%+10% = 20%):**
  - Come to class on time and having completed the readings. Attendance will be taken for the tutorials. Students will be divided into groups and be responsible for leading **ONE** tutorial discussion. You are allowed **two** unexcused absence (excused absence requires written documentation). Two points will be deducted from the final grade for each unexcused absence thereafter.
- **Online Response Posts (5% x 4 weeks = 20%):**
  - Students are required to submit online response posts (100-250 words) in **FOUR different weeks** of the semester. Please post your response post in the “Discussion Board” section of the course Blackboard site **no later than 11:59 pm** on the day **before class** to receive credit. You can either summarize the major arguments of the readings or identify a passage from one of the readings that excites or puzzles you and write your comments. In your post, you are also required to **raise at least ONE question** for tutorial discussion.
- **Midterm Exam (25%):**
  - In-class exam based on the lectures, required readings, and films from Week 3 to Week 8 (Sep 19 - Oct 24).
- **Final Paper (35%):**
  - Based on what we have learned in this course and other references, choose one of our weekly topics and write a final paper. Students are required to engage what we learned in the class to develop the theme and arguments. The final paper should be 1500-2000 words in English or 3000-4000 words in Chinese.
  - The final paper should be written in the following format: Double line spacing, Times New Roman, and font 12. A minimum of **five academic references** are required, with at least **one** from the class reading material. The final paper is due by **Dec 17**. Please upload it to VeriGuide, and then upload your paper and your **signed** VeriGuide Certificate to Blackboard.
  - **Optional:** If you are unsure about the topic of your final paper, you are encouraged to submit a topic statement. A topic statement is a brief paragraph that includes a clear statement of the issue to be investigated and a justification for why you think the topic is worthy of investigation. Please submit your topic statement (maximum one page) by Nov 14 to receive feedback.

## **Course Schedule** (Subject to modification)

- **Week 1 (Sep 5): Course Introduction**
  - No readings
  - No tutorial
- **Week 2 (Sep 12): What is anthropology? What is culture?**
  - Ingold, Tim. 2018. "On Taking Others Seriously" in *Anthropology: Why It Matters*, 1-14. Cambridge: Polity Press.
  - Miner, Horace. 1956. "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema." *American Anthropologist* 58(3): 503-507.
  - No tutorial
- **Week 3 (Sep 19): Language**
  - Deutscher, G. 2010. "Does language shape how you think?" *The New York Times*.
  - Svoboda, Elizabeth. "Where do new languages come from?" *Sapiens*, 6 February 2019.
- **Week 4 (Sep 26): What is modernity, and does it look the same everywhere?**
  - Ritzer, George. 2015. "An Introduction to McDonalidization," in *The McDonalidization of Society*, Eighth edition, 1-28. Los Angeles: SAGE Publications.
  - Ethnographic Film
- **Week 5 (Oct 3): Globalization**
  - Bestor, Theodore. 2000. "How Sushi went global." *Foreign Policy* 121: 54-63.
  - Mathews, Gordon. 2012. "Neoliberalism and Globalization from below in Chungking Mansions, Hong Kong." In *Globalization from Below: The World's Other Economy*, edited by Gordon Mathews, Gustavo Lins Ribeiro, and Carlos Alba Vega, 69–85. New York: Routledge.
- **Week 6 (Oct 10): Structural Violence in Haiti**
  - Farmer, Paul. 1996. "On Suffering and Structural Violence: A View from Below." *Daedalus* 125(1) 261-283.
- **Week 7 (Oct 17): Development in Asia and Africa**
  - Ferguson, James. 1994. "The anti-politics machine: "Development" and bureaucratic power in Lesotho." *The Ecologists* 24 (5):176-181.
  - Scott, James. 1998. "Introduction." In *Seeing like a state: How certain schemes to improve the human condition have failed*, 1-8. New Haven: Yale University Press.
  - Wallace, Ben. 2009. "Critical Reflections: Confessions from the Director of a 15-Year Agroforestry Research and Development Project in the Philippines." *Human Organization* 68 (1): 55–63.
- **Week 8 (Oct 24): Environment and sustainability in Latin America**
  - Haenn, Nora. 1999. "The Power of Environmental Knowledge: Ethnoecology and Environmental Conflicts in Mexican Conservation." *Human Ecology* 27 (3): 477–91.
  - Reed, Richard K. 2012. "Forest Development the Indian Way." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, edited by James W. Spradley Late and David W. McCurdy, 14th ed., 105–13. Upper Saddle River, N.J: Pearson.

- Ethnographic Film
- **Week 9 (Oct 31): Midterm Exam (in-class)**
  - No readings
  - No tutorial
  - Covers Week 3-Week 8
- **Week 10 (Nov 7): Aging in Japan**
  - Long, S. O. 2003. "Becoming a Cucumber: Culture, Nature, and the Good Death in Japan and the United States." *Journal of Japanese Studies* 29(1), 33–68.
- **Week 11 (Nov 14): Conspicuous Consumption in Africa and America**
  - Gondola, Ch. Didier. 1999. "Dream and Drama: The Search for Elegance among Congolese Youth," in *African Studies Review* 42(1): 23-48.
  - Harris, Marvin. 1974. The Potlatch. In *Cows, Pigs, Wars and Witches*.
- **Week 12 (Nov 21): Ethnicity in China**
  - Harrell, Stevan. 1995. "Introduction: Civilizing projects and the reaction to them." In *Cultural Encounters on China's Ethnic Frontiers*, edited by Stevan Harrell, 18-24. University of Washington Press.
  - Luo, Yu. 2017. "An Alternative to the 'Indigenous' in Early Twenty-First-Century China: Guizhou's Branding of *Yuanshengtai*." *Modern China* 44(1): 68-102.
  - Ethnographic Film
- **Week 13 (Nov 28): Place and Memory in Hong Kong**
  - Cheung, Sidney C.H. "Remembering through Space: the politics of heritage in Hong Kong." *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 9:1. (2010): 7-26.

#### Course Policies:

- **Penalties for late work:** All assignments are due on the scheduled day and time. No extensions will be given except under extraordinary circumstances. Late submissions will result in a reduction of points from the final grade for each day the assignment is overdue.
- **Class Culture:** Classes are a safe atmosphere where ideas can be discussed and different opinions respected.
- **Academic Honesty:** 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/academic\\_honesty/](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academic_honesty/). All papers must be submitted through VeriGuide.

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

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Overall course</b>
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.