Fall 2018
HUMA1620 Human Culture and Society
Course Syllabus

Course Time:
Mondays and Wednesdays
Lecture 12:00 - 12:50 pm
Tutorial 13:00 - 13:20 pm

Course Instructor: Dr. Huwy-min Lucia Liu
Office Hours: 2-3pm on Mondays and Wednesdays
Office Location: RM3385, Academic Building

Course Teaching Assistant: Mr. Herbary Zhang
Office Hours: 11:00 am -12:00 pm
Office Location: RM3301 (PG Commons)

Course Description:
Anthropology is a discipline concerned with what it means to be human; we research “humanity” through exotically foreign human practices no less than through those human practices that are most familiar to us. It provides a way of seeing the world and the place(s) of humanity in it that emphasizes holism, experiential learning, and comparison. Anthropology is as concerned with understanding the differences between and within groups of people as it is with the similarities that make all of us equally human. Moreover, it offers a perspective on difference that allows us to see how some differences have been historically infused with power, resulting not just in difference, but deep-seated inequalities. This course introduces students to the core questions, conversations, and concepts that have driven anthropological research and whose discussions have provided valuable insight into the human experience.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):
1. Understand basic terms, concepts, and theories in cultural anthropology about human culture and society.
2. Develop an appreciation of cultural diversity and understand the meanings of different cultural practices in their socio-cultural contexts.
3. Develop ethnographic research skills for collecting field data on human culture and society.

Assessment Tasks:
1. “Norm Violation” Essay: 36% (Deadline: October 24, 2018)
2. Final take-home exam:
   40% (I will post the final exam on Canvas before 9am on December 8, 2018. You must submit your answers before 9am on December 11, 2018).
3. Tutorial Assignments: 24% (3% for each assignment). I will choose the best 8 out of 10 assignments when calculating your overall grades.
Required Readings:
Many of the key concepts and some of the examples that I will refer to in the course lectures also appear in the following extremely useful two textbooks. While I am not assigning either in full for this course, they are excellent reference materials. They are:


Your assigned lecture and tutorial readings are listed in the course outline.

Notes on Grading
Essay and take-home exams are listed above the date they are due. Late work will be marked down one third of a letter grade per day late (an A paper will get an A- if turned in up to 24 hours late or a B+ if turned in within 48 hours of the deadline). No assignments will be accepted more than 3 days late except under emergency circumstances. You MUST speak with the professor as soon as possible if you think this applies to you.

Notes on Readings
Both the lecture readings and tutorial readings have to be completed BEFORE lecture. Lecture readings will help you understand the lectures better. This is particularly important if you are a first-year student or if you are not a native English speaker. Tutorial readings are the basis for group discussion during tutorial. Please be sure you do both!

Tutorial Assignments:
All tutorial assignments should be 1-2 pages long. All text documents are double spaced with 2.5cm margins on all four sides unless otherwise specified. As for maps and other illustrative kinds of assignment, you can just write these on a single piece of paper. Students will receive specific details about each assignment in separate documents.

Note on Electronic Devices
As this is a class designed for first and second year students, I require everyone to take notes with a pen or pencil on paper. If you *must* take notes using an electronic device in cases involving learning disabilities or other clear reason, then please come and talk to me. Generally, I have found that computers and mobile devices tend to be much more of a distraction then a help while in class. Remember that these are not only a distraction for your own learning, but also for your classmates. *Please turn all of your devices to silent mode and put them away so as not to disturb the class!*

Course Outlines
Week 1: Introduction (No tutorial this week)
September 3
Introduce the course

September 5
Introduce Anthropology and Anthropological Ways of Thinking
Week 2: The Concept of Culture

September 10
Lecture:
What is culture?
Lecture Reading:

Tutorial:
Reading Discussion in Small Groups
Tutorial Reading:
*Richelle Gamlam “8 Questions About the U.S. You’ll Be Asked While Teaching in Asia,” see https://www.gooverseas.com/blog/questions-youll-be-asked-while-teaching-in-asia

September 12
Lecture:
How do we investigate culture?
Explaining the norm violation paper
Lecture Reading:
*Robbins and Dowty (2017) Chapter 1, Question 1.1: Why do human beings differ in their beliefs and behaviors? (p.5-8).

Tutorial:
*Watch a TED Talk: Ethnography: Ellen Isaacs at TEDxBroadway https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nV0jY5VgymI

Week 3: Space

September 17
Lecture:
The cultural construction of space
Lecture Reading

Tutorial:
Assignment No. 1 Due: Your Space in Hong Kong
Complete your assignment before class. Present your assignment to your peers in small groups during tutorial. Turn in your assignment before you leave class.

September 19
Lecture:
Restricted and Invisible Spaces
Lecture Reading:

Tutorial:
Discuss Beckham’s article in small groups
Week 4: Times
September 24
Lecture:
Cosmological Times
Lecture Reading:

Tutorial:
Assignment No. 2 Due: Choose your own holiday
Complete your assignment before class. Present your assignment to your peers in small groups during tutorial. Turn in your assignment before you leave class.

September 26
Lecture:
Lived Times
Lecture Reading:

Tutorial:
Discuss Siskind’s article in small groups

Week 5: Language
October 3
Lecture:
Theories of Language
Language in Use
Lecture Reading:
*Cameron, Claire. 2015. “5 Languages That Could Change the Way You See the World.” Nautilus, March 3, Published online at http://nautil.us/blog/5-languages-that-could-change-the-way-you-see-the-world.

Tutorial:
Assignment No. 3 Due: How is time conceptualized or described in Chinese or in English (choose one).
Complete your assignment before class. Present your assignment to your peers in small groups during tutorial. Turn in your assignment before you leave class.

Week 6: Relations and Relatedness
October 8
Lecture:
Family and Kinship
Lecture Reading:

Tutorial:
Assignment No. 4: Writing a Family Ethnography Part I
Complete this assignment during class time
October 10
Lecture:
   Love and Sex
Lecture Reading:
Tutorial:
   Assignment No. 4 Due: Writing Family Ethnography Part II
   Complete your assignment before class. Present your assignment to your peers in small groups during tutorial. Turn in your assignment before you leave class.

Week 7: Body
October 15
Lecture:
   Our Bodies
Lecture Reading:
Tutorial:
   Reading Discussion in Small Groups
Tutorial Reading
   *Robbins and Dowty (2017) “Fat Talk” (p.252-259)

Week 8: Body
October 22
Lecture:
   The Social Body
Lecture Reading:
Tutorial:
   Assignment No. 5 Due: Advertising Images
   Complete your assignment before class. Present your assignment to your peers in small groups during tutorial. Turn in your assignment before you leave class.

October 24
   Norm Violation Project Dues
   Norm Violation Project Presentation in Class

Week 9: Food Consumption
October 29
Lecture:
   We are what we eat
Lecture Reading

**Tutorial:**
Reading Discussion in Small Groups

**Tutorial Reading:**

**October 31**

**Lecture:**
What makes a meal?

**Lecture Reading:**

**Tutorial:**
**Assignment No. 6 Due:** An Anthropologist Looks at Cha chaan teng (“tea restaurant”) Complete your assignment **before** class. Present your assignment to your peers in small groups during tutorial. Turn in your assignment before you leave class.

**Week 10: Food Production and Clothes**

**November 5**

**Lecture:**
Modes of Subsistence and their transformation

**Lecture Reading:**

**Tutorial:**
**Assignment No. 7 Due:** Imagine you are a World Bank Consultant… Complete your assignment **before** class. Present your assignment to your peers in small groups during tutorial. Turn in your assignment before you leave class.

**November 7**

**Lecture:**
Fashion

**Lecture Reading:**

**Tutorial:**
**Assignment No. 8 Due:** Clothes Manufacturing
Complete your assignment **before** class. Present your assignment to your peers in small groups during tutorial. Turn in your assignment before you leave class.

**Week 11: Emotions**

**November 12**

**Lecture:**
Cultural Construction of Emotions
Grief in Bali

**Lecture Reading:**

Tutorial:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzkfRicF8wE

**Assignment No. 9 Due:** Emotional Labor in Hong Kong
Participate in small group discussions on emotional labor and then turn in the group discussion summary sheet.

**November 14 (No Class)**

**Week 12: Ritual**

**November 19 (No Class)**
**November 21**

**Lecture:**
Secular Ritual

**Lecture Reading:**

**Tutorial:**

**Assignment No. 10 Due:** Your Ritual Life
Complete your assignment before class. Present your assignment to your peers in small groups during tutorial. Turn in your assignment before you leave class.

**Week 13 Ritual**
**November 26**

**Lecture:**
Myths and urban legends

**Lecture Reading:**

**Tutorial:**
Reading Discussion in Small Groups
Watch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xcb8kk1vXc in class

**November 28**

**Lecture:**

**Lecture Reading:**

**Tutorial:**
Reading Discussion in Small Groups
What can you do if you study anthropology?

**Tutorial Reading:**