

HUMA 2632 (Spring 2019)  
**CHINESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY  
IN ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES**

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**Class Meeting** Lecture: 17:00-18:50 Thursday  
Tutorial: 18:00-18:50 Wednesday

**Course Description**

The discipline of anthropology requires the researcher's engagement with the daily life of informants' local community for an extended period of time in order to understand their real life experiences. Based on field data collected by participation, observation, and interviews about informants' lived experiences shaped by local economic, social, political, and cultural institutions in constant interaction with the external world, researchers write up ethnography about the life of informants to address different academic or practical issues. This course is a survey of traditional and contemporary Chinese cultural practices and social institutions in local communities based on anthropologists' long-term first-hand fieldwork studies in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Mainland China. Basic anthropological concepts and theories about Chinese socio-cultural institutions will be examined. Students will be guided to explore major anthropological contributions to the understanding of the diversity and unity of Chinese cultures and societies in transformation through readings to be discussed in lectures and tutorial presentations, and practical experiences by joining fieldtrips and conducting a small-scale ethnographic research project.

**Intended Learning Outcomes**

On completion of this course, students should be able to

1. Comprehend basic terms, concepts and theories in cultural anthropology about Chinese cultures and societies in ethnographic writings;
2. Apply a holistic perspective to understand social and cultural phenomena, integrating the ecological/environmental, technological/economic, social/political, and religious/cosmological aspects of phenomena for analyses.
3. Conduct critical analyses about socio-cultural issues in contemporary Chinese societies, such as kinship, class, gender and ethnic relations, ecological concern, development issues, and so on.
4. Conduct small-scale ethnographic fieldwork-based research by collecting and analyzing research data on contemporary Chinese culture and society;

5. Develop appreciation and respect of cultural diversity and understand the importance of cultural awareness for social interaction in contemporary daily life.

### **Reading Materials**

Huang Shu-min. 1989. *The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader*. Boulder: Westview Press. (黃樹民著，素蘭、納日碧力戈譯。《林村的故事：一九四九年后的中國農村變革》。北京，三聯書店，2002。)

A set of articles will be put on the course website <https://Canvas.ust.hk/>.

Films/videos will be shown during the course and drawn on for examination questions.

Students should take notes during film shows.

### **Course Requirements**

Requirements consist of attendance at lectures and tutorials, doing tutorial presentation and joining discussion, completing the required readings, joining a fieldtrip and work on a fieldtrip worksheet, taking the Mid-term Examination, and writing a research paper. Course readings are on the course website. Students are expected to keep up with the readings according to the schedule.

### **Fieldtrips**

Out of the following three options, join one fieldtrip and work on the corresponding worksheet:

- 1) Pingshan Tang Lineage Heritage Trail in Yuenlong 元朗屏山鄧族文物徑  
(10:00—14:30, 23 Feb 2019, Saturday)
- 2) Borrowing from Guanyin's Treasury 觀音借庫 at Lotus Guanyin Temple in Tai Hang, Causeway Bay  
(20:00-24:00, 1 Mar 2019 Friday evening)
- 3) Hung Shing Temple Festival on Kaosei Island, Saikung 西貢峇西洲洪聖誕  
(9:00—14:00, 19 March 2019, Tuesday)

### **Grading**

Class and tutorial (Attendance, presentation and participation)	100
Mid-term Examination (open book)	100
Fieldtrip (join one out of 3 options) (Attendance & worksheet)	50
Research Project (proposal & report)	100
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Total	350

## Class Topics

### (A) Anthropology and its Methods

Readings based on Garrick Bailey and James Peoples, Chapter 1-4 in *Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. Belmont, CA.: West/Wadsworth, 2009.

Topic	Fieldwork practice	Issues for Research Project
1. The Anthropology of culture	The culture of HKUST student societies on campus (17:00-18:50, Feb 14 Thursday)	How to collect ethnographic field data?
2. Fieldwork research methods		What are behavior patterns and cultural knowledge?

### (B) Traditional China

Readings based on articles written by researchers about anthropology of China

Topic	Field Trip 1	E.g. of Issues for Research Project
3. Gender and Marriage	Pingshan Tang Lineage Heritage Trail in Yuenlong 元朗屏山鄧族文物徑 (10:00-14:30, Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday)	Small house policy 丁屋政策
4. Family and Lineage		Native Women's right of property inheritance in the New Territories 婦女財產繼承權
5. Rural Life		

Topic	Field Trip 2	E.g. of Issues for Research Project
6. Regional and Marketing System	Borrowing from Guanyin's Treasury 觀音借庫 Lotus Guanyin Temple in Tai Hang, Causeway Bay (20:00-24:00, Mar 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday)	Who and why borrow money from Guanyin's Treasury?
7. Popular Religion		How does religion reflect social and economic problems?

Topic	Field Trip 3	E.g. of Issues for Research Project
8. State and Society	Hung Shing Temple Festival on Kaosei Island, Saikung 西貢窰西洲洪聖誕 (9:00—14:00, Mar 19 <sup>th</sup> Tues)	What is Chinese identity?
9. Ethnicity		Nationalism and cultural identity
10. Chinese Cultural Identity		Hong Kong people's identity before and after 1997

### (C) Socialist China and Post-Mao Reforms

Readings based on Huang Shu-min. *The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1998.

Tutorial topics	Tutorial readings
12. Before revolution	Tutorial presentation and participation Chapter 1-10 In teamwork
13. The Transition to Socialism	
14. The Years of Chaos	
15. The Rural Reform	
16. Post-Mao Transformation	