ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDIES OF CHINA

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Class Meetings
Time: 7:00-9:50pm, Tuesday
Venue: Rm 2463, Lift 25-26

Course Description
This course addresses the major paradigms in anthropological studies of China. It examines the relationship between anthropological studies and the politico-economic circumstances within and outside China under which the knowledge about Chinese culture and society was produced. We will give particular attention to four issues: (1) the relationship of anthropological practices to domestic political and economic concerns; (2) the interplay between anthropology and different forms of colonialism and imperialism; (3) the significance of class, gender and ethnicity in the production of anthropological understanding; and (4) the politics of fieldwork and ethnographic writing.

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. Write critical essays on the development of particular topics anthropological studies of Chinese societies.
3. Develop appreciation and respect of cultural diversity and understand the importance of cultural awareness for social interaction in contemporary daily life.

Seminar organization
The course will be organized as a seminar and normally will involve a close reading of both major anthropological works and secondary texts that relate these works to the historical conditions under which they have emerged. Besides some introductory
lectures on course topics, usually presented by the instructor a week before the topic to be addressed, the principal responsibility for running each class will fall upon those participants who have been assigned as chief discussants for individual reading materials. The assignment for each week--two participants being responsible for one reading item according to the reading schedule, one for presentation and the other for guiding discussion--will be made one week before following the alphabetical order of the participants' names running in a cycle. Both of the presenter and the discussant are required to make a handout for the class that outlines the presentation or the questions and topics relating to the reading item to organize the discussion. This handout will be passed out to the class at the beginning of each meeting. The presenter should get to the main issues addressed and the arguments of the author(s), within his or her 15 minutes of presentation. The discussant should have not only "a firm grasp" on the subject but also a fully positioned stake in the direction of the discussion. The person will open the discussion with an extremely clear and concise 10 to 15 minutes presentation of issues and questions to be addressed. S/he is then responsible for eliciting and directing the discussion to make sure that important points get covered. Every student is required at all times to actively contribute to the discussion. Everyone should come every week, having read all of the required readings extremely carefully and creatively. Students failing to attend a particular class is required to write up a summary of all the reading materials for that class, and absence for more than 4 classes will lead to the F grade for the course.

**Fieldtrip Requirement**

Students are required to attend **one fieldtrip out of 3 options** and work on the related worksheet (by partnership of two teammates).

**Fieldtrips:**

Three fieldtrips will be arranged. Students are required to attend at **ONE** of them. Participants are required to complete a Worksheet for each fieldtrip.

**Fieldtrip option 1:** Communal Celebrations of the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival in Causeway Bay (September 12, Thursday)
- Mid-Autumn Festival and the Fire-dragon Parade in the Hakka community of Tai-Hang
- Government organized celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival in Victoria Park

Fieldtrip option 2: Traditional Lineage communities in Yuanlong, New Territories (October 5, Saturday)
The Tang Lineage in Pingshan, Yuenlong, New Territories

Fieldtrip option 3: South Asian Communities in Wanchai (October 27, Sunday)

- Dewali Celebration, the Sikh Temple New Year Festival in Wanchai, Hong Kong Island
- Dewali Celebration, the Hindu Temple New Year Festival, in Wanchai Hong Kong Island

Written requirements
For each class, participants who are responsible for presentation and guiding discussion are required to turn in an outline of the presentation and questions for discussion respectively based on the assigned reading materials.

Each student is required to write 1 critical review essay on some chosen research topics related to the course topics (based on required class readings and reference readings listed on the course website), and then work on one research paper 15-20 page long based on first-hand ethnographic data collected from a Chinese community about the chosen research topic and analysis built upon the critical review essay.

Important dates for research schedule
Research paper proposal due 18 Oct (Friday), Week 7
Critical review due 8 Nov (Friday), Week 10
Research paper due 14 Dec (Saturday), Week 15

Grades
Grades will be based on the following components of the course work:

(1) Class reading presentation and discussion 30%
(2) Research paper proposal 10%
(3) Critical review 20%
(4) Research paper 35%
(5) Fieldtrip and worksheet 5%

Tentative Course Schedule
Week 1: Course organization
          The Nature and Practices of Anthropology: An Introduction

Required readings
Garrick Bailey and James Peoples, “Chapter1: The Study of Humanity,” In Introduction to
Week 2: The Concept of Culture and Anthropology Research Method

**Required readings**


Week 3: The Lineage Model

Frontier society and state-making: Lineages in southern China

**Required readings**


Week 4: Gender, Chinese Family and Marriage

Chinese family organization; varieties of marriage; gender differences.

**Required readings**


Week 5: The Role of Rural Elites

**Required readings**


Week 6 Guanxi as Social Relations

Worldview and social relations, local communities and guanxi, politics of guanxi.

**Required readings**


Week 7 Marketing Hierarchy and Regional System

Research paper proposal due 18 Oct (Friday), Week 7

**Required readings**


王銘銘 1997 “第四章：市場與社會結構理論批判”。《社會人類學與中國研究》，112-148 頁。北京：三聯書店。

**Week 8 Cities, Urbanization, and the Flowing Population**

Urbanization and modernization; cities and migrants; globalization and cities, sociocultural urbanization.

**Required readings**


**Week 9 Consumption and Economic Behavior**

Concepts of rationality and fate; capitalism and traditional economic culture; post-reform consumption and consumerism

**Required readings**


Week 10  
**Popular Religion and the Chinese State**

**Critical review due**  
8 Nov (Friday), Week 10

**Required readings**


Week 11  
**Ethnic Diversity and the Chinese World Order**

**From “barbarians” to “national minorities”:** Minority politics and the Miao case.

**Required readings**


We 12 Chinese Cultural Identity and Nationalism
What is Chinese? Chinese Cultural Identity
Folk models, imperial culturalism, and modern nationalism

Required readings


Week 13 Research paper Presentation
Week 14 Research paper Presentation
Week 15 Research paper due, late submission will be subject to mark reduction