HUMA 2632  (Spring 2020)

CHINESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY
IN ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

Instructor : Siu-woo Cheung  
Office : Rm. 3340  
Phone : 2358-7763  
E-mail : hmcheung@ust.hk  
Course Web : https://Canvas.ust.hk/

Class Meeting  
To be announced  
To be announced

Course Description  
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 of local communities in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Mainland China. Basic anthropological concepts and theories about Chinese socio-cultural institutions will be examined. Major anthropological contributions to the understanding of the diversity and unity of Chinese cultures and societies will be explored in lectures on different topics. The transformation of Socialist China will be explored through tutorial presentation and discussion on various chapters from the book The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader written by an anthropologist.

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

Reading Materials

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, 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.

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Marks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class and tutorial (Attendance, presentation and participation)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Examination (open book)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project (proposal &amp; report)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research Project:** Ethnographic research on the continuity and transformation of particular Chinese cultural practices

**Marking Scheme**

Data : /60  
Analysis : /50  
Application of concepts from course materials : /50  
Format : /40  
Total : /200

**Class Topics and Readings**

(A) **Introduction: Anthropology and its Methods**

1. **Course introduction**

2. **The Scope of Anthropology**

3. The anthropological Study of Culture

(B) Anthropological Paradigms on Traditional China

4. Family

5. Lineage

6. Gender and Marriage

7. Rural Life

8. Regional and Marketing System
施堅雅著，史建云等譯，1998[1964] “第一部分” 《中國農村的市場與社會結構》，頁5-67。北京：中國社會科學出版社。

9. Religion

10. State and Society
(C) Anthropological Studies on Contemporary China

11. **Guanxi as Social Relations**

12. **Cities, Urbanization, and the Flowing Population**

13. **Consumption and Economic Behavior**

14. **Ethnicity**

(D) Transformation of Socialist China
(Tutorial presentation and Discussion)

1. **Prologue: Anthropological research**
   (Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)

2. **The Transition to Socialism**
   (Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)

3. **The Years of Chaos**
   (Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)
(Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)

4. The Rural Reform 1
(Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)

5. The Rural Reform 2
(Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)

6. Post-Mao Transformation
(Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)