

# HUMA2623

## Cultural Sustainability in South China

### Syllabus (Fall Semester 2018)

*Since the class will conduct fieldworks in Hong Kong and Guangdong, students may need either visas or entering permits to enter Mainland China, and may need to share part of the traveling and living expenses.*

**Instructor:**

Dr. Wing-ho Wong

(E-mail: [hmwwh@ust.hk](mailto:hmwwh@ust.hk))

Room: 3341, phone: 23587778, Office Hours: Wed 3:00 to 4:00 and Fri 3:00 to 4:00.

**Lectures:** Monday, 9:30 – 11:20 (Room CYTG002)

**Tutorials:** Monday, 18:00 – 18:50 (Room 5560)

**Fieldwork:** 13 Oct, and 27-28 Oct, 2018.

**Course Credit:** 3

**Course Description**

In the past decades of increasing homogeneity and globalization, local history, traditions and ways of life are among our most endangered resources and precious assets. Cultural sustainability is a new interdisciplinary approach that aims to explore the significance of culture as a major factor in sustainable development. To achieve the goal of meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, we are required to recognize indigenous cultural values and standards, as well as equal rights of the respective communities in policy planning and decision-making, and the engagement of the local community and members of the public. By understanding the socio-economic factors and the diversity of local cultures, we will be equipped with the knowledge and awareness needed to develop, renew and maintain local cultures that create positive and enduring relationships with other people and the natural world.

This course aims to examine the basic theories and concepts of cultural sustainability with empirical field studies. It combines lectures and field studies, which will be conducted in Hong Kong, Nansha, and Guangzhou in weekends. Students will explore local people's history, culture, and society using the ethnographic research method. Students will gain firsthand experience of the social and cultural development in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta region, through which they will understand and appreciate cultural diversities and rethink their own roles in the rapid changing world.

## Course Requirements

Students are expected to get familiar with the historical background as well as contemporary political, social, economic, and cultural knowledge of South China. Students are required to learn the basic concepts in cultural sustainability and discuss the various approaches to major current issues of cultural sustainability in South China.

Students are required to conduct field research projects, in which they have to draw maps, observe human activities, conduct interviews, examine local archives, inscriptions, folk documents and local gazetteers, and interview local residents, migrant workers and government officials.

Students are required to conduct field studies in Hong Kong, Nansha, and Guangzhou in weekends. Students may need either visas or entering permits to enter Mainland China, and may need to share part of the traveling and living expenses.

## Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Understand basic terms, concepts, and theories of cultural sustainability through the study of culture and society of South China.
2. Develop an appreciation of cultural diversity and understand the possibilities and limits of sustaining local cultures.
3. To identify and understand contemporary situation and problems of cultural sustainability in South China.
4. Develop research skills for conducting fieldwork and collecting field data on human culture and society.
5. Develop written and oral presentations skills.

## Course Outline

Weeks	Dates	Lectures, Tutorials, and Fieldworks	Venues
1	Sept 3 (Mon)	Topic 1: Introduction	Room CYTG002
2	Sept 10 (Mon)	Topic 2: Culture, Environment, and Society	Room CYTG002
3	Sept 17 (Mon)	Topic 3: The Development and the Conception of “Sustainability”	Room CYTG002
4	Sept 24 (Mon)	Topic 4: Popular Religion and the Making of Local Identity	Room CYTG002
5	Oct 1	Public Holiday	
6	Oct 8 (Mon)	Topic 5: Heritage, Tourism, and Economy I	Room CYTG002

		Tutorial 1 18:00- 18:50	Room 5560
	Oct 13 (Sat)	Guided Fieldwork 1: Tai O (大澳) 9:00-15:00	Tai O, HK
7	Oct 15 (Mon)	Topic 6: Heritage, Tourism, and Economy II	Room CYTG002
		Tutorial 2 18:00 – 18:50	Room 5560
8	Oct 22 (Mon)	Topic 7: Urbanization and Heritage Preservation I	Room CYTG002
9	Oct 29 (Mon)	Topic 8: Urbanization and Heritage Preservation II	Room CYTG002
	Oct 27-28 (Sat-Sun)*	Guided Fieldwork 2: Nansha (南沙) and Guangzhou (廣州)	Oct 27 stay at Nansha
10	Nov 5 (Mon)	<b>Mid-term Quiz:</b>	Room CYTG002
11	Nov 12 (Mon)	Topic 9: Cultural Heritage in Hong Kong and South China	Room CYTG002
		Tutorial 3 18:00 – 18:50	Room 5560
12	Nov 19 (Mon)	Topic 10: Cultural Sustainability: Possibilities and Limits	Room CYTG002
13	Nov 26 (Mon)	Group Presentations and Discussions	Room CYTG002

### Assessment

Individual written assignment (35%)

Group project (20%)

Group presentation (5%)

Class participation (10%)

Mid-term Quiz (30%)

No final examination

#### 1. Class Participation (10%)

- a. Active engagement in lectures and tutorials, including comments on tutorial group presentations.
- b. Preparation before class.

## **2. Tutorial**

There are 3 tutorials. Students are required to attend all of them. Absence from or late arrival to any tutorials for any reason will be reflected in the final grade, and no homework replacement shall be accepted.

## **3. Individual Written Assignment (35%)**

Students are required to submit 2 assignments (3-5 pages, double space, Times New Roman 12). Written assignments have to adhere to the strictest standard of academic honesty. Your lecturer may select to use a plagiarism detection service in this course. Plagiarism will result in failing the class. The due date of written assignments will be provided in due course.

## **4. Group Project (20%) and Presentation (5%)**

3-4 students will form a group. Students who fail to find themselves in a group will be assigned to one by the instructor. Each group has to pick one topic from the list of topics that the instructor will provide in due course. Students are expected to narrow down the given topic and elaborate on a specific aspect of the topic. They should give critical thoughts and demonstrate their knowledge on the topic. Each study group is responsible for a 30 minutes presentation and leading a discussion in class. The group presentation will be held on 26 Nov 2018. After the presentation, each group submits their group reports. The report is due on 6 Dec 2018. One-third of a letter grade will be deducted each day for late submission. Group reports have to adhere to the strictest standard of academic honesty. Plagiarism will result in failing the class.

## **5. Mid-term Quiz (30%)**

The mid-term quiz will be conducted on 5 Nov 2018. The format of the mid-term quiz will include identification and short essays. The mid-term quiz will take 90 minutes.

### **How to get a good grade in this course?**

- Read the syllabus carefully.
- Attend class meetings and participate in class activities.
- Do the readings before you come to class.
- Submit all assignments by due dates. (Five points will be deducted each day for late submission)
- Get a good grade on the mid-term quiz.
- Give a good presentation.
- Submit a good group project report.

### **A Recommended Reading List**

Arizpe, Lourdes. 2015, *Culture, Diversity and Heritage: Major Studies*. Cham, CH:

- Springer International Publishing.
- Chhabra, Deepak. 2010. *Sustainable Marketing of Cultural and Heritage Tourism*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Clammer, John. 2016. *Cultures of Transition and Sustainability: Culture after Capitalism*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan,
- Chew, Matthew. 2009. "Cultural Sustainability and Heritage Tourism: Problem in Developing Bun Festival Tourism in Hong Kong," *Journal of Sustainable Development*, vol. 2, no. 3, pp. 34-42.
- De Beukelaer, Pyykkönen, Miikka Christiaan, and J. P. Singh, eds. 2015. *Globalization, Culture and Development: The UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Du Cros, Hilary and Yok-shiu F. Lee, eds. 2007. *Cultural Heritage Management in China: Preserving the Cities of the Pearl River Delta*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Elliott, Jennifer. 2006. *An Introduction to Sustainable Development*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Hawkes, Jon, 2001. *The Fourth Pillar of Sustainability: Culture's Essential Role in Public Planning*. Melbourne: Cultural Development Network, Common Ground.
- Messmer, Matthias & Hsin-Mei Chuang. 2013. *China's Vanishing Worlds: Countryside, Traditions, and Cultural Spaces*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press.
- Siu, Helen. 1990. "Recycling Tradition: Culture, History, and Political Economy in the Chrysanthemum Festivals of South China," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, .vol. 32, no. 4, pp. 765-794.
- UNESCO, 1995. *The Cultural Dimension of Development: Towards a Practical Approach*. Paris: UNESCO Publishing.
- UNESCO: Cultural Sector (Oct, 2012). "Culture and Development."  
(<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/culture-and-development/>)
- Watson, James L. and Rubie S. Watson. 2004, *Village life in Hong Kong: Politics, Gender, and Ritual in the New Territories*. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press.
- Wolf, Arthur P. 1974. "Gods, Ghost, and Ancestors." In Arthur P. Wolf, ed., *Religion and Ritual in Chinese Society*, pp. 131-182. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- 黃永豪，2005，《土地開發與地方社會：晚清珠江三角洲沙田研究》。香港：文化創造出版社。
- 廖迪生，2000，《香港天后崇拜》。香港：三聯書店。
- 廖迪生、張兆和，2006，《大澳》。香港：三聯書店。
- 廖迪生主編，2011，《非物質文化遺產與東亞地方社會》。香港：香港科技大學華南研究中心，香港文化博物館。
- 廣州市南沙區東涌鎮人民政府、香港科技大學華南研究中心編著，2013，《從滄海沙田到風情水鄉：珠江三角洲東涌社會生態變遷研究》。北京：中國戲劇出版社。