

**Division of Humanities
Course Syllabus**

Course Code: HUMA 1630
Course Title: Popular Religion in South China
Course Offered in: Fall 2020
Course Instructor: Tik-sang Liu

Course Description:

This course examines popular religion in South China from an anthropological point of view. In South China, popular religion has a close relationship with the family organization, local political institutions, and people's belief system. People organize operas to celebrate deities' birthdays, arrange rituals to signify one's new status or to purify their own communities. Religious activities are also events that allow local leaders to express their wealth and power. Cases from Hong Kong and South China will be investigated; the social and cultural meanings of popular religion will be examined.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

	Course ILOs
1	To understand the structure and organization of popular religious activities in south China
2	To understand the relation between state and local societies through local religious activities
3	To understand the role of popular religion in local culture and society
4	To understand the concept of supernatural beings in the south China context
5	To understand field research techniques

Course Outline:

Topics	
1	Introduction
2	What is Culture and Religion?

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3	Temples
4	Temple Festivals
5	Pilgrimages
6	Pollution
7	Rites of Passage
8	Gods, Ghosts, and Ancestors
9	Communities of Popular Religion
10	Religion and Heritage
11	State and Local Society
12	Conclusion

Planned Assessment Tasks:

1st Quiz: 25%

2nd Quiz: 25%

Research Paper: 30%

Tutorial and Class Participation: 20%

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Readings:

1. 華琛、華若璧，《鄉土香港：新界的政治、性別及禮儀》，香港：中文大學出版社，2011。

2. 廖迪生，《香港天后崇拜》，香港：三聯書店，2000。

3. Wolf, Arthur P. "Gods, Ghosts, and Ancestors." In *Religion and Ritual in Chinese Society*, ed. Arthur P. Wolf. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1974, pp. 131-82.