

HUMA2632 (Spring 2021)
Chinese Culture and Society in Anthropological Perspectives

Instructor : Siu-woo Cheung
Office : Rm. 3340
Office Hours : Tuesday: 14:30-16:00; Wednesday: 10:30-12:00
Phone : 2358-7763
E-mail : hmcheung@ust.hk
Course Web : <https://canvas.ust.hk/>

Class Meetings

Lecture : 10:30-12:30 Tuesday
Tutorial : 18:00-18:50 Tuesday
Venue : Zoom meeting

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

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.

Virtual Fieldtrip Requirement

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

Fieldtrip option 1: Traditional Lineage communities in Yuanlong, New Territories

(March 6, Saturday)

- The Tang Lineage in Pingshan, Yuenlong, New Territories

Fieldtrip option 2: Hung-Shing Birthday Festival in Kausei, Saikung

(March 25, Thursday)

- Patron God Religious Festival as local heritage

Fieldtrip option 3: Heritage Preservation and Community Revitalization

(April 10, Saturday)

- Heritage as the platform for community revitalization in Yimtintsai, Saikung

Research Project Requirement

Two students form a team to conduct an ethnographic research project. The team is required to submit a research proposal, 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 project schedule

Two students form a team to handle a research project according to the following schedule:

Research paper proposal due	20 March (Saturday), Week
7	
Critical review due	17 April (Saturday), Week 10
Research paper due	22 May (Saturday), Week 15

Assessment Scheme

Class attendance	50
Tutorial Presentation and participation	40 + 60
1 Virtual Field-trip (with worksheet)	50
Research Project (proposal & report)	20 + 130
<hr/>	
Total	350

Class Topics and Readings

(A) Introduction: Anthropology and its Methods

1. Course introduction

2. The Scope of Anthropology

Garrick Bailey and James Peoples, "Chapter 1: The Study of Humanities," Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. (Belmont, CA.: West/Wadsworth), pp. 1-12.

3. The anthropological Study of Culture

Garrick Bailey and James Peoples, "Chapter 2: Culture," Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. (Belmont, CA.: West/Wadsworth), pp. 15-25.

(B) Anthropological Paradigms on Traditional China

4. Family

Myron L. Cohen. 1970. "Developmental Process in the Chinese Domestic Group." In Maurice Freedman, ed., *Family and Kinship in Chinese Society*, pp. 20-36. Stanford, CA.: Stanford University Press.

5. Lineage

Jack M. Potter. 1970. "Land and Lineage in Traditional China." In Maurice Freedman, ed., *Family and Kinship in Chinese Society*, pp. 121-138. Stanford, CA.: Stanford University Press.

6. Gender and Marriage

Margery Wolf. 1972. "Chapter 3: Uterine Families and the Women's Community." In *Women and the Family in Rural Taiwan*, pp. 32-41. Stanford, CA.: Stanford University Press.

7. Rural Life

John A. Brim. 1974. "Village Alliance Temples in Hong Kong." In Arthur P. Wolf, ed., *Religion and Ritual in Chinese Society*, pp. 93-104. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

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

Arthur P. Wolf. 1974. "Gods, Ghost, and Ancestors." In Arthur P. Wolf, ed., *Religion and Ritual in Chinese Society*, pp. 131-182. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

10. State and Society

James Watson. 1985 "Standardizing the Gods: The Promotion of Tien Hou ("Empress of Heaven") Along the South China Coast, 960-1960." In David Johnson, Andrew J. Nathan, and Evleyn S. Rawski, eds., *Popular Culture in Late Imperial China*, pp. 292-324. Berkeley University of California Press.

(C) Anthropological Studies on Contemporary China

11. Guanxi as Social Relations

Yan, Yunxiang. 1996. "The Culture of Guanxi in a North China Village." *The China Journal* 35: 1-25.

12. Cities, Urbanization, and the Flowing Population

Siu-woo Cheung. 2019. "Festivals and Re-ethnicization of China's Miao Migrant Community: Culture for Network Linkage and Institutional Embeddedness." *Asian Education and Development Studies*,

13. Consumption and Economic Behavior

Yan Yunxiang. 2000. "Of Hamburgers and Social Space: Consuming McDonald's in Beijing." In Deborah S. Davis, ed. *The Consumer Revolution in Urban China* pp. 201-225.

14. Ethnicity

Cheung Siu-woo. 2012. "Appropriating Otherness and the Contention of Miao Ethnic identity in Southwest China." *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*, Vol. 13, No. 2, pp. 142-169.

(D) Transformation of Socialist China

(Tutorial presentation and Discussion)

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：一九四九年後的中國農村變革》。北京，三聯書店，2002。)

1. Prologue: Anthropological research

Shu-min Huang. 1989. "Chapter 1: Prologue" and "Chapter 2: Family History." In *The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader*, pp. 11-24, 25-40. Boulder: Westview Press.

(Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)

2. The Transition to Socialism

Shu-min Huang. 1989. "Chapter 3: The Liberation" and "Chapter 4: Hunger, Hunger." In *The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader*, pp. 41-68. Boulder: Westview Press.

(Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)

3. The Years of Chaos

Shu-min Huang. 1989. "Chapter 5: Joining the Act" and "Chapter 6: Return Home," In *The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader*, pp. 69-128. Boulder: Westview Press.

(Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)

4. The Rural Reform 1

Shu-min Huang. 1989. "Chapter 7: Security Head." and "Chapter 8: Prosperous Years" In *The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader*, pp. 151-174. Boulder: Westview Press.

(Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)

5. The Rural Reform 2

Shu-min Huang. 1989. "Chapter 9: The Breakup." and "Chapter 10: Village Cadres." In *The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader*, pp. 175-198. Boulder: Westview Press.

(Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)

6. Post-Mao Transformation

Shu-min Huang. 1989. "Chapter 11: Village Changes in the 1990s" and "Chapter 12:

Wither Lin Village.” In *The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader*, pp. 199-226. Boulder: Westview Press.
(Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)