

Course Code: HUMA 2632
Course Title: Chinese Culture and Society in Anthropological Perspectives
Course Offered in: Spring 2025
Course Instructor: CHEUNG Siu-woo (張兆和)
Email: hmcheung@ust.hk
Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 12:30-13:30am (Academic Building Rm 3340)

Lectures and Tutorial Sessions:

Lecture: Tuesday 09:00 -10:50 LTH
 Tutorial: Tuesday 11:00 -11:50 LTH

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 based on his field research.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

	Course ILOs <i>On completion of this course, students should be able to:</i>
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	Relate and apply the holistic perspective on community heritage to explain other social and cultural phenomena.
4	Develop appreciation and respect of cultural diversity and understand the importance of cultural awareness for social interaction in contemporary daily life.

Course Requirements

Requirements consist of attendance at lectures and completing the required readings; doing a tutorial presentation and participate in other classmates' presentation; joining

1 fieldtrip out of two options and submitting the fieldtrip worksheet (by partnership of two teammates); conducting a research project based on ethnographic research methods. No written examination is required.

Assessment and Grading

This course will be assessed using criterion-referencing and grades will not be assigned using a curve. Detailed rubrics for each assignment are provided below, outlining the criteria used for evaluation.

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Due date
Lecture Attendance	10%	18 Feb-6 May 2025
Tutorial presentation	10%	25 Feb-6 May 2025
Tutorial participation	10%	25 Feb-6 May 2025
Fieldtrip attendance and Worksheet	20%	Fieldtrip Option 1 (12 Mar Wed) or Option 2 (8 April Tuesday) Worksheet due 2 weeks after fieldtrip
Community Engagement Research Project (proposal)	10%	Proposal due 15 Mar Saturday (Week 6), Meeting with me for discussion before 29 Mar 2025
Community Engagement Research Project (Report)	40%	10 May 2025 (Week 13)

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
Lecture Attendance	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4	Attending class is the basic condition for comprehending course contents, learning how to conduct fieldwork and ethnographic research, and develop appreciation and respect of cultural diversity and social awareness.
Tutorial presentation	ILO1, ILO3, ILO4	Presentation on case studies of community issues is to assess students' understanding of course contents, their development of appreciation and respect of cultural diversity and social awareness.

Tutorial participation	ILO1, ILO3, ILO4	Participation in tutorial discussion on case studies of community issues is to assess students' understanding of course contents, their development of appreciation and respect of cultural diversity and social awareness.
Fieldtrip attendance and Worksheet	ILO2, ILO3, ILO4	Fieldtrip report is to assess students' understanding of how to how to conduct fieldwork and ethnographic research, and their development of appreciation and respect of cultural diversity and social awareness.
Community Engagement Research Project (proposal)	ILO2	Research report is to assess students' learning how to conduct fieldwork and ethnographic research
Community Engagement Research Project (Report)	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3. ILO4	Research report is to assess students' overall integration of comprehending course contents, learning how to conduct fieldwork and ethnographic research, and develop appreciation and respect of cultural diversity and social awareness.

Tutorial Sessions

Students are required to attend and to participate in 6 tutorial sessions starting from Week 4. A required reading each week will be presented and discussed in the tutorial sessions. Students will be evaluated according to their presentations (50 marks for full score), and they get their participation score by answering questions thrown out by the presenters during their presentation (50 marks for full score).

Fieldtrip

Students are required to join 1 fieldtrip out of 3 Fieldtrip Options and submitting the fieldtrip worksheets (by partnership of two teammates). They can choose the following options:

Fieldtrip Option 1: Heritage and community revitalization in Yimtintsai, Saikung

Venue: Yimtintsai Island, Saikung
 Date and Time: Feb 16 (Saturday) 9:00am --14:30

- Fieldtrip worksheet submission **due Mar 2 (Sunday)**

Fieldtrip Option 2: Heritage of Hungshing Festival in a Fishermen village

Venue: Kaosai Island, Saikung
 Date and Time: 12 Mar (Wed) 8:30am --2:30pm

- Fieldtrip worksheet submission **due Mar 26 (Wednesday)**

Research Project

2 students form a team to undertake a research project relevant to the subject matter of the course, completing a research proposal, making an appointment with me to discuss the project's feasibility, collecting data and write up a research report following academic norms in a length no less than 5,000 words.

Research proposal due date: 15 Mar Saturday (Week 6)

Research Report Due Date: 10 May 2025 (Week 13)

Rubric for Grading Research Project

Assessment Items	Outstanding	Satisfactory	Needs work	Score (200)
Abstract	8-10 Succinct statements of clear objective, key research question and concise argument, clear academic significance	4-7 Lack of concise argument, and clear academic significance	1-3 Lack of clear objective, key research question, concise argument, and clear academic significance	
Research topic, phenomena and objective	8-10 Clear Phenomena and research objective in good relation to the course topics	4-7 Clear Phenomena but research objective unclear	1-3 Unclear Phenomena and unclear research objective	
Research questions	8-10 Key research questions with good correspondence with empirical research questions	4-7 Clear key research questions but unclear empirical research questions	1-3 Unclear key research questions and unclear empirical research questions	
Community engagement arrangement	8-10 Good community engagement and sufficient reflection	4-7 Good community engagement but insufficient reflection	1-3 Lack of community engagement and Insufficient reflection	

Data sources and data collecting methods	8-10 Clear data sources and clear data collecting methods	4-7 Clear data sources but unclear data collecting methods	1-3 Unclear data sources and data collecting methods	
Literature review	15-20 Literature review with good correspondence with research questions	6-15 Literature review with insufficient correspondence with research questions	1-5 Lack of or insufficient literature review	
Community engagement arrangement	8-10 Good community engagement and sufficient reflection	4-7 Good community engagement but insufficient reflection	1-3 Lack of community engagement and insufficient reflection	
Data	41-50 Good presentation of useful field data and other data sources	26-40 Weak in field data while relying on other data sources, unclear presentation	1-25 Lack of field data and other data sources	
Analysis	21-30 Thorough and logical analysis	11-20 Logical but shallow analysis	1-10 Insufficient analysis	
Application of course materials	15-20 Sufficient applications with proper mentioning of sources	6-15 Sufficient applications but lack of mentioning about the sources	1-5 Lack of application of course materials	
Cited References	8-10 Thorough and significant references	4-7 Sufficient references	1-3 Insufficient references	
Citation and cited references format	8-10 Sufficient citations with correct format	4-7 Sufficient citations but incorrect format	1-3 Insufficient citations	

Course Outline:

	Date	Major experience	Reading	Assessment task
Wk 1	Feb 4 (Tuesday) 09:00-11:50	Course introduction Lecture: -The nature of Anthropology	Garrick Bailey and James Peoples, "Chapter 1: The Study of Humanities,"	

Wk 2	Feb 11 (Tuesday) 09:00-11:50	Lecture: - Characteristics of culture: Culture, tradition, heritage Lecture: Skills of anthropological research	Garrick Bailey and James Peoples, "Chapter 2: Culture," Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. Garrick Bailey and James Peoples, "Chapter 3: Studying Culture: Approaches and Methods."	
Wk 3	Feb 18 (Tuesday) 09:00-11:50	Lecture: Structure and process of Chinese Family Tutorial: Arrangement of weekly tutorial sessions	Myron L. Cohen. 1970. "Developmental Process in the Chinese Domestic Group."	
	Feb 16 (Sunday) 09:00-14:30	Fieldtrip Option 1 Heritage and community revitalization in Yimtintsai, Saikung		Fieldtrip worksheet
Wk 4	Feb 25 (Tuesday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: Gender and Person in Chinese society	Rubie S. Watson. 1986. "The Named and the Nameless: Gender and Person in Chinese Society."	
	11:00-11:50	Tutorial: Family and community	"Chapter 2: Family History." In <i>The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader</i>	Team presentation ppt Class participation
Wk 5	Mar 4 (Tuesday) 09:00-11:50	Lecture: Lineage in South China	Jack M. Potter. 1970. "Land and Lineage in Traditional China."	
		Tutorial: The Years of Chaos	"Chapter 3: The Liberation" In <i>The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader</i>	Team presentation ppt Class participation

Wk 6	Mar 11 (Tuesday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: Gender and Marriage	Margery Wolf. 1972. "Chapter 3: Uterine Families and the Women's Community."	
	11:00-11:50	Tutorial: Great Leap Forward	"Chapter 4: Hunger, Hunger." In <i>The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader</i>	• Team presentation ppt • Class participation
	Mar 12 (Tuesday) 08:45-14:00	Fieldtrip option 3 - Hungshing Festival in a Fishermen village on Kausai Island, Saikung		Fieldtrip worksheet
	Mar 15 (Saturday)	Research project proposal due, make appointment with the instructor to discuss your research proposal within week 7 and week 8		
Wk 7	Mar 18 (Tuesday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: Rural Elite and Self-governance	John A. Brim. 1974. "Village Alliance Temples in Hong Kong."	
	11:00-11:50	Tutorial: The Years of Chaos 1	"Chapter 5: Joining the Act" In <i>The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader</i>	• Team presentation ppt • Class participation
Wk 8	Mar 25 (Tuesday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: Regional and Marketing System	G. William Skinner. 1964-65. "Marketing and Social Structure in Rural China, Part I," (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》)	
	11:00-11:50	Tutorial: The Years of Chaos 2	"Chapter 6: Return Home," In <i>The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader</i>	• Team presentation ppt • Class participation
Wk 9	April 8 (Tuesday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: Guanxi as Social Relations	Yan, Yunxiang. 1996. "The Culture of <i>Guanxi</i> in a North China Village."	
	11:00-11:50	Tutorial: The Rural Reform 1	"Chapter 7: Security Head." In <i>The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader</i>	• Team presentation ppt • Class participation

Wk 10	April 15 (Tuesday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: Popular religion	Arthur P. Wolf. 1974. “Gods, Ghost, and Ancestors.”	
	11:00-11:50	Tutorial: The Rural Reform 1	“Chapter 8: Prosperous Years” In <i>The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team presentation ppt • Class participation
Wk 11	April 22 (Tuesday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: State and society	James Watson. 1985 “Standardizing the Gods: The Promotion of Tien Hou (“Empress of Heaven”) Along the South China Coast, 960-1960.”	
	11:00-11:50	Tutorial: The Rural Reform 2	“Chapter 9: The Breakup.” In <i>The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team presentation ppt • Class participation
Wk 12	April 29 (Tuesday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: Ethnic minorities and ethnic classification in China	Cheung Siu-woo. 2012. “Appropriating Otherness and the Contention of Miao Ethnic identity in Southwest China.”	
	11:00-11:50	Tutorial: The Rural Reform 2	“Chapter 10: Village Cadres..” In <i>The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team presentation ppt • Class participation
Wk 13	May 6 (Tuesday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: Chinese Cultural Identity	Barbara E. Ward. 1965. “Varieties of the Conscious Model: The Fishermen of South China.” (中譯本：華德英 1985[1965] “意識模型的類別：兼論華南漁民”	
	11:00-11:50	Course wrap up		
	May 10 (Saturday)	Research Report Due		

Planned Assessment Tasks:

Class attendance	50
Tutorial Presentation (Team)	50
Tutorial participation (Individual)	50
1 Field-trip (with worksheet)	50
Research Project (proposal & report)	50 + 150
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Total	400

Readings:**Lecture Readings**

1	Garrick Bailey and James Peoples, "Chapter 1: The Study of Humanities," <i>Introduction to Cultural Anthropology</i> . (Belmont, CA.: West/Wadsworth), pp. 1-12.
2	Garrick Bailey and James Peoples, "Chapter 2: Culture," <i>Introduction to Cultural Anthropology</i> . (Belmont, CA.: West/Wadsworth, 1999), pp. 15-25.
3	Garrick Bailey and James Peoples, "Chapter 3: Studying Culture: Approaches and Methods." In <i>Introduction to Cultural Anthropology</i> . (Belmont, CA.: West/Wadsworth)
4	Myron L. Cohen. 1970. "Developmental Process in the Chinese Domestic Group." In Maurice Freedman, ed., <i>Family and Kinship in Chinese Society</i> , pp. 20-36. Stanford, CA.: Stanford University Press.
5	Jack M. Potter. 1970. "Land and Lineage in Traditional China." In Maurice Freedman, ed., <i>Family and Kinship in Chinese Society</i> , pp. 121-138. Stanford, CA.: Stanford University Press.
6	Margery Wolf. 1972. "Chapter 3: Uterine Families and the Women's Community." In <i>Women and the Family in Rural Taiwan</i> , pp. 32-41. Stanford, CA.: Stanford University Press.
7	John A. Brim. 1974. "Village Alliance Temples in Hong Kong." In Arthur P. Wolf, ed., <i>Religion and Ritual in Chinese Society</i> , pp. 93-104. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
8	G. William Skinner. 1964-65. "Marketing and Social Structure in Rural China, Part I, <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> , 24:3-43. (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	Arthur P. Wolf. 1974. "Gods, Ghost, and Ancestors." In Arthur P. Wolf, ed., <i>Religion and Ritual in Chinese Society</i> , pp. 131-182. Stanford: Stanford University Press. (Basel, Switzerland), 2021, Vol. 13, no.9510.
10	Yan, Yunxiang. 1996. "The Culture of Guanxi in a North China Village." <i>The China Journal</i> 35: 1-25.
11	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., <i>Popular Culture in Late Imperial China</i> , pp. 292-324.

12	Cheung Siu-woo. 2012. "Appropriating Otherness and the Contention of Miao Ethnic identity in Southwest China." <i>The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology</i> , Vol. 13, No. 2, pp. 142-169.
13	Barbara E. Ward. 1965. "Varieties of the Conscious Model: The Fishermen of South China." In Michael Banton, ed., <i>The Relevance of Models for Social Anthropology</i> , pp. 113-138. London: Tavistock Publications. (中譯本：華德英 1985[1965] “意識模型的類別：兼論華南漁民”。華德英著，馮承聰等編譯，《從人類學看香港社會--華德英教授論文集》，頁 35-54。香港：大學出版印務公司。)

Tutorial Readings

1	<p>Huang Shu-min. 1989. <i>The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader</i>. Boulder: Westview Press.</p> <p>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。）</p>
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