

HUMA2632 (Fall 2023)

Chinese Culture and Society in Anthropological Perspectives

<u>Instructor</u>	:	Siu-woo Cheung 張兆和
Office	:	Rm. 3340
Office Hours	:	Monday 11:00-13:00, Friday 14:00-15:00
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Course Web	:	https://canvas.ust.hk/

Class Meetings

Lecture	:	Monday 09:00 - 10:50	Rm 1410 (Lift 25-26)
Tutorial	:	Tuesday 11:00 - 11:50	Rm 2302 (Lift 17-18)

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. 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.

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 2 options** and work on the related worksheet (by partnership of two teammates).

Fieldtrip option 1: Mid-Autumn Festival Fire dragon dance in Tai Hang, Causeway Bay

(Sept 30 Saturday evening 17:00 – 22:00)

- Heritage and the sustainability of an urban Hakka community.

Fieldtrip option 2: Traditional Lineage communities in Yuanlong, New Territories

(Oct 7, Saturday morning 09:00 – 14:00)

- The Tang Lineage in Pingshan, Yuenlong, New Territories

Research Project Requirement

Two students form a team to conduct an ethnographic research project. The team is required to submit a research proposal, 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 (single member for MPhil or PhD students) to handle a research project according to the following schedule:

Research paper proposal due	14 Oct (Saturday), Week 6
Discussion meeting by appointment	Within Week 7 and 8
Research paper due	2 December (Saturday), Week 13

Assessment Scheme

Class attendance	50
Tutorial Presentation (Team)	50
Tutorial participation (Individual)	50
1 Field-trip (with worksheet)	50
Research Project (proposal & report)	30 + 120
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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：一九四九年后的中國農村變革》。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)

Course Outline:

	Date	Major experience	Reading	Assessment task
Wk 1	Sept 4 (Monday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: Course introduction Lecture: The nature of Anthropology	“Chapter 1: The Study of Humanities,” <u>Introduction to Cultural Anthropology</u>	
	Sept 5 (Tuesday) 11:00-11:50	Lecture: - Characteristics of culture: Culture, tradition, heritage	“Chapter 2: Culture,” <u>Introduction to Cultural Anthropology.</u>	
Wk 2	Sept 11 (Monday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: - Characteristics of culture: Culture, tradition, heritage	“Chapter 2: Culture,” <u>Introduction to Cultural Anthropology.</u>	
	Sept 12 (Tuesday) 11:00-11:50	Lecture: Skills of anthropological research	“Chapter 3: Studying Culture: Approaches and Methods.” In <u>Introduction to Cultural Anthropology</u>	
Wk 3	Sept 18 (Monday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: Family	“Developmental Process in the Chinese Domestic Group.”	
	Sept 19 (Tuesday) 11:00-11:50	Tutorial: Arrangement of weekly tutorial sessions		
Wk 4	Sept 25 (Monday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: Lineage	“Land and Lineage in Traditional China.”	
	Sept 26 (Tuesday) 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team presentation ppt • Class participation
	Sept 30 (Saturday) 10:00-15:30	Fieldtrip Option 1 Mid-Autumn Festival Fire dragon dance in Tai Hang, Causeway Bay		Fieldtrip worksheet
Wk	Oct 2 (Monday) 09:00-10:50	Public Holiday		

5	Oct 3 (Tuesday) 11:00-11:50	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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team presentation ppt • Class participation
	Oct 7 (Saturday) 10:00-15:30	Fieldtrip Option 2 -Lineage organization and heritage in Pingshan, Yuanlong		Fieldtrip worksheet
Wk 6	Oct 9 (Monday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: Gender and Marriage	“Chapter 3: Uterine Families and the Women’s Community.” In <i>Women and the Family in Rural Taiwan</i>	
	Oct 10 (Tuesday) 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team presentation ppt • Class participation
Wk 7	Oct 16 (Monday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: Rural Life	“Village Alliance Temples in Hong Kong.”	
	Oct 17 (Tuesday) 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team presentation ppt • Class participation
Wk 8	Oct 23 (Monday) 09:00-10:50	Public Holiday		
	Oct 24 (Tuesday) 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team presentation ppt • Class participation
Wk 9	Oct 30 (Monday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: Regional and Marketing System	"Marketing and Social Structure in Rural China," Part I, <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i>	
	Oct 31 (Tuesday) 12:00-13:50	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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team presentation ppt • Class participation

Wk 10	Nov 6 (Monday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: Guanxi as Social Relations	“The Culture of <i>Guanxi</i> in a North China Village.”	
	Nov 7 (Tuesday) 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	Nov 13 (Monday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: Popular religion	“Gods, Ghost, and Ancestors.”	
	Nov 14 (Tuesday) 12:00-13:50	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	Nov 20 (Monday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: State and society	“Standardizing the Gods: The Promotion of Tien Hou (“Empress of Heaven”) Along the South China Coast, 960-1960.”	
	Nov 21 (Tuesday) 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	Nov 27 (Monday) 09:00-10:50	Lecture: Ethnic minorities and ethnic classification in China	“Appropriating Otherness and the Contention of Miao Ethnic identity in Southwest China.”	
	Nov 28 (Tuesday) 11:00-11:50	Course wrap up		