

**HUMA 3630 (Fall 2024)**  
**COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL IDENTITY**

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**Course Description**

“Community evokes in the individual the feeling that here is where I belong, these are my people, I care for them, they care for me, I am part of them. I know what they expect from me and I from them, they share my concerns. I know this place, I am on familiar ground, I am at home.” (Daniel Yankelovitch, *New Rules: Searching for Self-Fulfillment in a World Turned Upside Down*, 1981)

“We miss community because we miss security, a quality crucial to a happy life, but one which the world we inhabit is ever less able to offer and ever more reluctant to promise.” (Zygmunt Bauman *Community*, 2001)

“On each side of the political spectrum today we see a fear of social disintegration and a call for a revival of community.” (Anthony Giddens *Beyond Left and Right*, 1994)

This course is a critical introduction to the concept of community and cultural identity from interdisciplinary perspectives. It explores community in diverse forms of collective life as a source of security, belonging and identity in an increasingly insecure world shaped by individualism, globalization, and the changing modes of communication through case studies of local and overseas multicultural communities in Hong Kong, China and other parts of the world shaped by immigration and emigration, urban renewal, religion and lifestyles, ethnicity and nationalism. Special attention is devoted to conditions of community marginality and revitalization. Engagement in fieldtrips and community service will provide students with first-hand exposure and understanding of lived experiences in community through practices in life contexts.

**Intended Learning Outcomes**

On completion of this course, students should be able to

1. Comprehend basic terms, concepts and theories from interdisciplinary perspectives about the changing concept of community, community marginalization, and community revitalization shaped by various social and cultural conditions in particular historical circumstances.
2. Conduct small-scale ethnographic fieldwork for collecting research data on local communities in relation to community marginalization, and community revitalization.
3. Develop appreciation and respect of cultural diversity and social awareness through community engagement projects.
4. Relate interdisciplinary knowledge for solving real world problems concerning community marginalization and revitalization.

## Course Requirements

Requirements consist of attendance at lectures and tutorials and completing the required Readings and team presentation; joining 1 fieldtrip and submitting a fieldtrip worksheet (by partnership of two teammates); conducting a team-work research project (by partnership of two teammates).

## Reading Materials

A text-book for Lecture Classes:

Gerard Delanty. *Community*. London and New York: Routledge, 2003.

Supplementary reading materials will be put on the course website <https://canvas.ust.hk/>.

Films/videos will be shown during class and tutorial sessions.

## Course Grading

Lecture Attendance	50
Tutorial presentation and participation	100
1 Fieldtrip attendance and Worksheet (2-person Teamwork)	50
Community Engagement Research Project (2-person Teamwork)	
Proposal	50
Report	150
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Total	400

## Fieldtrips

Three fieldtrips will be arranged. Students are required to attend ONE of them. Participants are required to complete a Worksheet for each fieldtrip.

Fieldtrip Option 1: Communal Celebrations of the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival in Tai-Hang, Causeway Bay (Sept 16, Monday evening)

- Mid-Autumn Festival and the Fire-dragon Parade in the Hakka community of Tai-Hang
- Government organized celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival in Victoria Park

Fieldtrip Option 2: Heritage and Community Revitalization in Yimtintsai, Saikung (Oct 26, Saturday morning and early afternoon)

- Heritage development in a Catholic Hakka island community
- Art festival and community revitalization

## Community Engagement 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 4,000 words.

Research proposal due date: October 25 (Saturday)

**Research Proposal grading:**

Research topic, phenomena and objective	10
Research questions	10
Arrangement of Community engagement	10
Data sources and data collecting methods	10
References	10

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Total 50

Student research teams are required to meet with me for project discussion within two weeks after submitting the proposal, either in person or through Zoom meetings.

**Research Report Due Date: December 10 (Saturday)**

**Research Report Grading:**

Research topic, phenomena and objective	10
Research questions	10
Community engagement reflection	20
Data sources and data collecting methods	10
Literature review	20
Data	30
Analysis	20
Application of course materials	20
Citation and cited references format	10

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Total 150

## Lecture Topics and Readings

### ( A ) Community and Cultural Identity

1. Course Introduction --The Meaning of Community  
Examining the Concept of Community

2. The Concepts of Culture and Identity

Explore the concepts of culture and identity in anthropological literature.

Reading:

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

3. A Classic Example of Community and Cultural Identity: the model of Lineage community in South China  
The Case of the Tang Lineage in New Territories, Hong Kong.

Reading:

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

4. Historical and Political Discourses of Community

Some of the historical expression of community in Western thought and politics are discussed

Reading:

Gerard Delanty. Community. Chapter 1: "Community as an idea: loss and recovery."

5. Sociological and Anthropological Studies of Community

Discuss the idea of community in classical sociology and anthropology, especially around debates on the decline of community with the coming of modernity.

Reading:

Gerard Delanty. Community. Chapter 2: "Community and society: myths of modernity" and Chapter 3: "Urban community: Locality and belonging."

### ( B ) Community and Marginality

6. Gentrification and Urban Redevelopment

Reading: Qian Xingyu and Yin Chengzhi (2018). "From Redevelopment To Gentrification In Hong Kong: A Case Study of Kwun Tong Town Center Project." Open house international, 2018-09-01, Vol.43 (3), p.83-93.

7. Foreign Domestic Helpers' Marginality

Reading:

Ivan Nasution (2015) Urban Appropriation: Creativity in Marginalization." Procedia: Social and Behavioral Sciences 184 (2015): 4-12.

## 8. Rural Migrant Workers in Urban China

Reading:

Siu-woo Cheung (2020). "Festivals and Re-ethnicization of China's Miao Migrant Community." *Asian Education and Development Studies* Vol 9, Issue 1: 1-14.

### ( C ) Community Revitalization

## 9. Intentional Communities

Community as Ideals and Instruments

The Kibbutz Communes in Israeli

Reading:

*Inventing our life [videorecording] : the kibbutz experiment* / directed, produced & written by Toby Perl Freilich. New Brunswick, U.S.A : Transaction Books, c1986.

The Hippies' Communes in the USA

Reading:

*Flashing on the sixties [videorecording] : a tribal document* / Flashback Productions ; produced by Lisa Law and Anton Walpole ; directed by Lisa Law. Santa Monica, CA : Pyramid Film & Video, c1990.

The People's Commune in Mao's China

Reading:

*Wuxing People's Commune [videorecording]* / direction, Boyce Richardson, Tony Ianzelo ; producer, Tom Daly ; a National Film Board of Canada production. Watertown, MA : Documentary Educational Resources, c2006.

Rebuilding Tsoi Yuen Village and the Development of Hong Kong's New Territories

Reading:

*Moving tale [videorecording]* / programme director, Grace Lee; ATV News & Public Affairs production, c2011.

## 10. Heritage and Community Revitalization

Reading:

Selina Ching Chan (2018). "Heritagizing the Chaozhou Hungry Ghosts Festival in Hong Kong." In Christina Maags and Marina Svensson, eds., *Chinese Heritage in the Making: Experiences, Negotiations and Contestations*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.

## 11. Community Revitalization as Political Agenda

Reading:

Yun-chung Chen & Mirana M. Szeto (2015). "The forgotten road of progressive localism: New Preservation Movement in Hong Kong." *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*, 16:3, 436-453.

## Tutorial Readings for presentation and Discussion Participation

3-4 students form a tutorial team for presentation and discussion participation.

### Tutorial Grading:

Attendance	20
Presentation of reading material (Question based)	40
Participation in class discussion (Answering presenters' questions)	40

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Total 100

### Tutorial readings

1. Indian Migrant Communities in Hong Kong

Reading: Caroline Plüss (2005). "Constructing Globalized Ethnicity: Migrants from India in Hong Kong". *International Sociology* 20 (2): 201–224.

2. South Asian Muslims in Hong Kong

Reading: Kareen N. Tonsing (2014) "Acculturation and Adaptation of First- and Second-Generation South Asians in Hong Kong." *International Journal of Social Welfare* 2014: 23: 410–420.

3. Hong Kongers' Diaspora and the Impacts on Home Community

Reading: James L. Watson (2004). "Virtual Kinship, Real Estate, and Diaspora Formation: The Man Lineage Revisited." *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 63, No. 4.

4. Urban Renewal and Gentrification

Reading: Mee Kam Ng (2018). "Sustainable community building in the face of state-led gentrification: the story of the Blue House cluster in Hong Kong." *Town planning review*, 2018-09-01, Vol.89 (5), p.495-512.

5. The Ideals of Good Society in Taiwan's Community Construction Program

Reading: Chen Jui-hua (2014). "Building a new society on the base of locality: Transformation of social forces in Taiwan during the 1990s." *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*, Vol. 15, No. 2, 291–305.

6. China's Urbanism in the Making

Reading: Nguyen, Thao, "Governing through Shequ/Community: The Shanghai Example." *International Journal of China Studies*; Kuala Lumpur Vol. 4, Iss. 2, (Aug 2013): 213-VI.

7. Urbanization and the Making of Urban Villages

Reading: Johnathan Bach (2010). "'They Come in Peasants and Leave as Citizens': Urban Village and the Making of Shenzhen." *Cultural Anthropology*, Vol. 25, Issue 3, pp. 421–458.

8. Community and Cultural Identity—New Application

Reading: Kaman Ka Man Tsang, Kin Wai Michael Siu (2016). "The 3Cs model of sustainable cultural and creative cluster\_ The case of Hong Kong." *City, Culture and Society* 7 (2016) 209e219.