

GENA2212
Debates in Human Values

Lecture: Wednesday, 2:30pm – 4:15pm

Venue: NAH 213

Instructor: Dr FAMING, Manynooch;

Office hour: By Appointment

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Course Description

This course discusses the ongoing issues under modernity and globalized world context. Within these contexts people share similar ‘values’, such as education, economy, freedom, sentiment, taste, beliefs, etc. that one holds to ‘oneself’ and/or to/against ‘others’. The course also leads students to discuss how and why we have come to hold certain values. Through a socio-cultural perspective, the course introduces several fundamental themes and debates in human values. The course provides no black or white answers and/or values but to provide students with analytical skills to these debates.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Develop a reflexive skill in understanding human values;
2. Critically reflect and self-reflect values in one’s own and/or a cross-cultural context;
3. Apply key theoretical concepts to analyze values in one’s own context and/or cross-culturally.

Course Requirements

1. In class:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| A. Class Participation: | 20% |
| B. Group Presentation: | 40% |

2. Independent Projects:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| C. One Reflexive Memo: | 20% |
| D. Final Paper: | 20% |

Course Assessments details

A. Class Participation (including Blackboard responses) 20%

- **Discussion:** Share your thoughts and questions in class, Volunteer answers to others' questions, Volunteer to respond to the weekly blackboard discussion post. Contributors are encouraged to post before the end of every Monday. Past this day, contributor(s) will not be given credits.
- **Commenting on group's presentation**
Students are expected to contribute to commenting to the groups' debate presentation.

B. Group Presentation 40%

You will be assigned into a group of 3-4. A debate presentation will be in form of two teams discussing issues of our weekly topic. Each group will be given around **10min.** to present the group's points before we open the floor for the class to comment or ask questions.

C. Reflexive memo 20%

Each student will submit a reflection of between 1,000-1,500 words. You will reflect on the following options (**choose ONE only**):

1. One or two values from the cases discussed during the class (**Due Week: 6, 8, 10, or 12**).
2. One of the readings listed in this course. (*A few samples of reflection are available on Blackboard*). (**Due Week: 5, 7, 9, or 11**).
3. Your debate presentation. (**Due one week after your presentation**).

D. Final Essay (Choose ONE only) 20%

1. Two pieces of the above reflexive memos.
2. A paper of between 1,000-1,500 words that draws on careful reading of and conversation with class themes and texts to critically analyze and advance debates in human values. **Due Wednesday, 4 December 2019**

E. Notes on Submission of written assignments

All written assignments is not meant to give definite answers or judgments to the debates, but to demonstrate students' intellectual skills in approaching the debates.

Note 1: Submit a soft copy (with the signed VeriGuide receipt) to Blackboard.

Note 2: Save your final paper in **Word format**, and scan your signed VeriGuide receipt into PDF format. The final paper and the VeriGuide receipt should be uploaded as two separate files.

Note 4: Please name your final paper file **2212 Last name First name (assignment title)**, and your VeriGuide receipt file **2212VeriGuide Last name First name**.

The both reflections and final papers are to be **double-spaced and in 12-point font, Word Format. No PDF format**. Please follow the Anthropology Department citation style at http://arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~ant/en/dept_thesis_style.php. Late assignments will be penalized. If for valid reasons you need to have your assignment re-scheduled, please be sure to make a timely request.

The university adopts a policy of zero tolerance on plagiarism. Any use of another person's words or ideas, taken directly or paraphrased, without citing the source is plagiarism. This includes taking material from the Internet without citing the website. Please consult the university's policy on academic honesty at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

Students are required by university policy to submit soft copies of all papers to VeriGuide. Please check the website www.cuhk.edu.hk/veriguide for information on how to submit papers through VeriGuide. Please submit a soft copy of your final paper (Word document) together with the signed VeriGuide receipt page (PDF) to Blackboard.

Weekly schedule

Week 1 (Sept. 4) – Introduction

Marvin Harris. 2016 (1989). “Was there Life without Chiefs?” in *Conformity and Conflict: Reading in cultural anthropology*, 15th edition, edited by James Spradley and David McCurdy, Boston: Allyn and Bacon, pp. 238-245.

Week 2 (Sept. 11) – Are our basic rights our core value?

Alain Supiot. 2003. “The labyrinth of human rights: Credo or Common Resources?” *New Left Review*, May June 2003, pp. 118-136

Week 3 (Sept. 18) – Why do people love their country? Do they?

Aleksander Hemon, “Door to Door,” *The New Yorker*, 15 October 2001, p. 170.

Kenzaburo Oe, “For a Lousy Battery,” *The New Yorker*, 15 October 2001, p. 123.

Anchee Min, “Footprints on the Flag,” *The New Yorker*, 15 October 2001, p. 181.

Benedict Anderson. *Imagined Communities* (1991). “Introduction,” pp.1-7; “Census, Map, Museum,” pp. 163-185.

Other readings:

Sold out Hermes Bags: <https://www.mings-fashion.com/hermes-%e8%ad%b7%e6%97%97%e6%89%8b-moda-operandi-267377/>

Brand names Apologized: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qs-8oUJB7i8>

Week 4 (Sept. 25) – Is freedom of expression a basic human value?

Tamas Györfi. 2009. “The importance of freedom of Assembly: three models of Justification”, in Sajó & Sajó, András, 2009. *Free to protest: constituent power and street demonstration*. Eleven International Publishing, The Hague. pp: 1-15. **OR**

Butler, J., 2014. Bodily Vulnerability, Coalitions, and Street Politics. *Critical Studies*, 37, pp.99–119,247.

Other readings:

Clarke, Judith and Tim Hamlett. 1995. “Freedom of Expression in Hong Kong During and After the Transition to Chinese Sovereignty,” *Free Speech Yearbook*, 33:1, 65-77.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/08997225.1995.10556183>

Hong Kong Free Press. “Honour, morality and the lost art of ‘doing the right thing’” by Tim Hamlett, 21 April 2018. <https://www.hongkongfp.com/2018/04/21/honour-morality-lost-art-right-thing/>

The PULSE: “Hong Kong’s freedom of speech.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jimhgOEs18>, aired 9 July 2010.

New York Times, 24 Sept. 2014. “Is Autonomy Possible for Hong Kong?” in *Room for Debates* Column. <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2014/09/29/is-autonomy-possible-for-hong-kong>

Week 5 (Oct. 2)– Violence or Peace?

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy, and Philippe Bourgois. 2004. “Making Sense of Violence.” In Nancy Scheper-Hughes and Philippe Bourgois, eds. *Violence in War and Peace*, pp. 1-32. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub. **OR**

Lutes, Steven, and Michael J. Sullivan. 2004. “Violence by the Book: Redefining the Legitimate Use of Force in Municipal Policing.” In Myrdene Anderson, ed. *Cultural Shaping of Violence: Victimization, Escalation, Response*, pp. 135-146. West Lafayette, Ind.: Purdue University Press.

Other readings:

Gan, Wendy. 2017. “Puckish protesting in the Umbrella Movement,” *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, vol. 20(2) 162-176

New York Times, investigation: <https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/asia/100000006602584/hong-kong-police-protest-video-investigation.html>

Week 6 (Oct. 9) – Are we frightened by women’s bodies?

Edgerton, Anna. And Sotirova, Ina. 2011. “Sex and the barrio: a clash of faith in Latin America.” (REPORTAGE). *World Policy Journal*, Winter, 2011, Vol.28(4), p.34-41

Carole S. Vance and Ann Barr Snitow. 1984. “Toward a Conversation about Sex in Feminism: A Modest Proposal,” *Signs*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (Autumn, 1984), pp. 126-135

Other readings:

SCMP. 5 August 2015. “Skewered on US talk show ‘Conan O’Brien’, ‘breast assault’ case makes a boob of Hong Kong”, reported by Laura Ma. <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/1846744/skewered-us-talk-show-conan-obrien-breast-assault-case>

The Independent. 8 Aug. 2019. <http://theindependent.sg/hong-kong-police-in-hot-water-for-allegedly-ripping-off-female-protesters-underwear-and-exposing-her/> (accessed 20 Aug. 2019)

Fahmy, Amel, Mawaheb T El-Mouelhy and Ahmed R Ragab. 2010. “Female genital mutilation/cutting and issues of sexuality in Egypt,” *Reproductive Health Matters*, Vol. 18, No. 36, Privatisation (November 2010), pp. 181-190

Week 7 (Oct. 16). Religion and politics: Can our moral values be without the dead?

Claude Lévi-Strauss, “The Living and the Dead.” In *Tristes Tropiques* (1973), pp.230-246.

Sigmund Freud, “Obsessive Acts and Religious Practices.” In *Reader in Comparative Religion: An Anthropological Approach* (1958), W.A. Lessa and E.Z. Vogt, eds., pp. 185-190.

Robert Weller, “Night of the Living Dead Fish.” In *Discovering Nature: Globalization and Environmental Culture in China and Taiwan* (2006), pp. 19-42.

Other readings:

EJ Insight. 24 July 2019. <http://www.ejinsight.com/20190724-graves-of-lawmaker-junius-ho-s-parents-vandalized/>

HKFP. 7 Sept 2016. <https://www.hongkongfp.com/2016/09/07/no-tears-mao-witness-recalls-death-chairman-dynastical-shift-40-years-later/>

Stefan R. Landsberger, 1996. ‘Mao as the Kitchen God: Religious Aspects of the Mao Cult During the Cultural Revolution,’ *China Information*, Vol.XI, Nos 2/3, pp. 196-214.

Week 8 (Oct. 23) -- Hong Kong Core Values: Which ones are they?

“*HK Identity Debate: “Where, beneath the claims of government, is my cultural home?”*”

Mathews, Gordon. 2000. “Ch. 4: What in the world is Chinese: On the cultural identities of Hong Kong intellectuals in the shadow and wake of 1 July 1997,” in *Global Culture/Individual Identity: Searching for Home in Cultural Supermarket*, London and New York: Routledge, pp. 121-165.

Other readings:

Hong Kong Government. “Brand Hong Kong: Core Values.” At

http://www.brandhk.gov.hk/en/#/en/about/communicating/core_values.html

Sunday Examiner. 2011. “Editorial: Core Values of Hong Kong.” The Roman Catholic Church of Hong Kong. At <http://sundayex.catholic.org.hk/node/689>

RTHK radio, “Programme 75: The Rule of Law” broadcast on 14 Aug. 2016.

<http://programme.rthk.hk/channel/radio/programme.php?name=radio3/thebigidea&d=2016-08-14&p=5234&e=370822&m=episode>

Kent Ewing for HKFP, “Hong Kong Should Protect its core values, as the Communist Party’s only claim to legitimacy is destined to fade”, 4 Sept. 2017. <https://www.hongkongfp.com/2017/09/04/hong-kong-protect-core-values-communist-partys-claim-legitimacy-destined-fade/>

Week 9 (Oct. 30)– Education for Who and for What?

Levinson, B and Dorothy Holland. 1996. “Ch. 1: The Cultural Production of the Educated Person: An Introduction,” in *The cultural production of the educated person: critical ethnographies of schooling and local practice*, Albany, NY: State University of New York Press. pp. 1-15.

Butler, J., 2017. “Academic Freedom and the Critical Task of the University.” *Globalizations*, 14(6), pp.857–861.

Other readings:

- Paul Morris and Edward Vickers. 2015. "Schooling, Politics and the construction of identity in Hong Kong: the 2012 'Moral and National Education' crisis in historical context," *Comparative Education*, 51:3, 305-326. DOI: 10.1080/03050068.2015.1033169
- SCMP, 20 Aug. 2015, "How my top school grades got me into top university courses: Four Hong Kong students explain the pressure to succeed", report by Shirley Zhao. <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education-community/article>
- HKFP, "Student group slam Education Bureau for suppressing separatist talk in schools" by Chantal Yeun, 16 Aug. 2016, 7.48pm. <https://www.hongkongfp.com/2016/08/16/student-groups-slam-education-bureau-suppressing-separatist-talk-schools/>
- SCMP, 28 Aug 2017, "Legislator creates way to report 'patriotic content' in Hong Kong schools, amid 'brainwashing' claims," reported by Peace Chiu. <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education-community/article/2108659/legislator-creates-way-report-patriotic-content>
- SCMP staff, 12 Aug 2017, "Brainwashing: What is it and how effective can it be?," <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/2106418/brainwashing-what-it-and-how-effective-can-it-be>
- EDB, "Moral-National Education Curriculum Guide (Primary 1 to Secondary 6), [http://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/curriculum-development/moral-national-edu/MNE%20Guide%20\(ENG\)%20Final_remark_09102012.pdf](http://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/curriculum-development/moral-national-edu/MNE%20Guide%20(ENG)%20Final_remark_09102012.pdf)

Week 10 (Nov. 6) – Does Work dictate our Lifestyle and adulthood?

- Mathews, Gordon. 1996. "Ch.4: *Ikigai* in Work and Family," in *What makes life worth living?: How Japanese and American Make sense of their worlds*. Berkeley, LA: University of California Press. pp: 57-70.
- Berger, Peter. 1964. 'Some general observations on the problem of Work' in *The Human Shape of Work*, edited by Peter Berger. New York: Macmillan. pp. 211-241.
- Schwartz, Berry. 28 Aug. 2015. "Rethinking Work", *New York Times*, Sunday Review, Opinion. <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/30/opinion/sunday/rethinking-work.html?ref=opinion>

Week 11 (Nov. 13) -- Leisure for Social Classes: Are we showing off while spending our free time?

- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1987. "What makes a social class? On the Theoretical and Practical Existence of Groups," *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 32 (1987), pp. 1-17.
- Gans, Herbert J. 1996. 'The uses of poverty: The Poor pay all' in *Mapping the Social Landscape: Reading in Sociology*, edited by Susan J. Ferguson. Mountain View: Mayfield Publishing Co. pp. 265-270.

Other readings:

- Ma, Kit-wai Eric. 2001. 'The Hierarchy of Drinks: Alcohol and Social Class in Hong Kong' in *Consuming Hong Kong* edited by Gordon Mathews and Tai-lok Lui. Hong Kong: HKU Press. pp. 117-140.
- Roberts, Ken. 2004. 'Leisure Inequalities, Class Divisions and Social Exclusion in Present-day Britain', *Cultural Trends*, Vol. 13, No. 50, June 2004, pp. 57-71.
- Dong Jinxia. 2001. 'Cultural Changes: Mobility, Stratification and Sportswomen in the New China' in *Culture, Sport, Society*. Vol. 4, No. 3 (Autumn 2001). pp. 1-26.

Week 12 (Nov. 20) – Dead or Alive?

- Long, Susan Orpett. 2003. "Becoming a Cucumber: Culture, Nature and the Good Death in Japan and the United States." *Journal of Japanese Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 1 (Winter, 2003), pp. 33-68.
- Flemming, Rebecca. 2006. "Suicide, Euthanasia and Medicine: Reflections Ancient and Modern." *Economy and Society*, Vol. 34, No. 2: 295-321.

Week 13 (Nov. 27) – Conclusion