

GENA2212

Debates in Human Values

Lecture: Wednesday, 1:30pm – 3:15pm

Venue: Y.C. Liang G06

Lecturer: Dr Manynooch FAMING; 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: | 20% |

2. Independent Projects:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| C. One Reflexive Memo: | 20% |
| D. Final Paper: | 40% |

Course Assessments details

A. Class Participation 20%

- **Attendance**
 - Compulsory
 - Come to class on time
 - Without distracting others (including with phones or laptops)
- **Readings**
 - Having done the readings and brought them to class
 - Bring your reading notes
- **Discussion**
 - Share your thoughts and questions in class
 - Volunteer answers to others' questions
 - Volunteer to respond to the blackboard discussion post
- **Commenting on group's presentation**

Each student will contribute to the group comments to the presentation. Please note that the grades given by you will not affect the presenters' grade, but only your own.

B. Group Presentation 20%

You will be assigned into a group of 4-5. Each group will have to choose a topic discussing issues on values as an individual, economic, political, religious belief, society, etc. This will be conducted in each week of the class meeting. Please submit your presentation file to me either before class or by the end of your presentation.

C. Reflexive memos 20%

Each student will submit a reflection of between 1,000-1,200 words. You will reflect on one or two values from the cases discussed during the class or on your own readings listed in this course. *A sample of reflection is available on Blackboard.* **The due date is Week 8.**

D. Final Essay 40%

Students will write a 6-8 page final paper (or about between 1,500-2,000 words) that draws on careful reading of and conversation with class themes and texts to critically analyze and advance debates in human values. The paper is not meant to give definite answers or judgments to the debates, but to demonstrate students' intellectual skills in approaching the debates.

Note 1: The paper is due on **Friday, 1 December 2017.**

Note 2: Submit a soft copy (with the signed VeriGuide receipt) to Blackboard.

Note 3: 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 **2212Final Paper Last name First name**, and your VeriGuide receipt file **2212VeriGuide Last name First name**.

The final paper is to be **double-spaced and in 12-point font, Word 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. 6) – Introduction: Hamlet and the Tiv

Bohannon, Laura. 2002 (1966). "Shakespeare in the Bush," in *Conformity and Conflict*, eds. James Spradley and David McCurdy, Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 23-32.

Week 2 (Sept. 13) – Animals and Us (I)

John Berger. 1980. "Why Look at Animals?" in *About Looking*, New York: Pantheon Books, 1-26

Theodore C. Bestor. 2000. "How Sushi Went Global", *Foreign Policy*, No. 121 (Nov.- Dec., 2000), pp.54-63

Week 3 (Sept. 20) – Animals and Us (II)

Marvin HARRIS. 1986., "Chapter 9. 'Dogs, Cats, Dingoes, and other Pets.'" In *Good to Eat: Riddles of food and culture*. London: Allen&Unwin.

Choose one optional readings for a class discussion:

New York Times, 18 June 2015, "Chinese City Defends Dog Meat Festival, Despite Scorn" by Amy Qin. <http://sinosphere.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/06/18/q-and-a-peter-j-li-on-the-clash-over-eating-dogs-in-china/>

New York Times, 24 June 2015, "Q. and A.: Peter J. Li on the Clash Over Eating Dogs in China" by Shaojie Huang. <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/24/world/asia/dog-eaters-in-yulin-china-unbowed-by-global-derision.html>

Hong Kong Free Press, 08 July 2017. "It's still a dog's life: MTR rejects call to lift ban on animals aboard trains", reported by Ellie Ng. <https://www.hongkongfp.com/2017/07/08/still-dogs-life-mtr-rejects-call-lift-ban-animals-aboard-trains/>

Week 4 (Sept. 27) – Dead or Alive?

Film screening: A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness

Choose One Optional Readings for a class discussion:

Butalia, Urvashi. 2003. "When culture kills", *New Internationalist*, Dec 2003, Issue 363, p.5

The New Yorker, 19 July 2016, "The outrages 'honor killing' of a Pakistani social media star" by Saira Khan, <http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-outrageous-honor-killing-of-a-pakistani-social-media-star>

Flemming, Rebecca. 2006. "Suicide, Euthanasia and Medicine: Reflections Ancient and Modern." *Economy and Society*, Vol. 34, No. 2: 295-321.

Lee, Raymond L.M. 2008. "Modernity, Morality and Re-Enchantment: The Death Taboo Revisited." *Sociology*, Vol. 42, No. 4 (August 2008), pp. 745-759.

Week 5 (Oct. 4) –HK 20: Who are We!

Benedict Anderson. 1991. *Imagined Communities*, "Introduction," pp.5-7; and "Census, Map, Museum," pp. 163-185.

Choose One Optional Readings for a class discussion:

Michael Chugani for SCMP, "Wake up and see your skin colour: Self-denial for Hongkongers to say they're not Chinese" 13 June 2017.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/2098147/wake-and-see-your-skin-colour-self-denial-hongkongers-say-theyre-not#comments>

Tim Hamlett for HKFP, "Hong Kong identity... what exactly is it?", 18 June 2017.

<https://www.hongkongfp.com/2017/06/18/hong-kong-identity-exactly/>

Charlotte Chang for HKFP, "HK20: Hong Kong's language and culture is endangered by a purely political concept of Chinese identity", 4 July 2017,

<https://www.hongkongfp.com/2017/07/04/hk20-hong-kongs-language-culture-endangered-purely-political-concept-chinese-identity/>

Claudia Mo for HKFP, "HK20: Hong Kong can choose either autonomy and diversity, or mainlandization," 29 June 2017, <https://www.hongkongfp.com/2017/06/29/hk20-hong-kong-can-choose-either-autonomy-diversity-mainlandisation/>

Week 6 (Oct. 11) – Hong Kong Core Values: Which ones are they?

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>

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>

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 7 (Oct. 18) – 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.

Choose one optional readings for a class discussion:

SCMP, 27 Sept. 2014. "Occupy Central is on: Benny Tai rides wave of student protest to launch movement" reported by Timmy Sung, Ernest Kao and Tony Cheung,

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1601625/hong-kong-students-beat-us-it-benny-tai-declares-start-occupy-central>

Holden, Kevin. 2015. "China's crackdowns in Tibet", *The Diplomat*, 14 April 2015.

<http://thediplomat.com/2015/04/chinas-crackdowns-in-tibet/>

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

Week 8 (Oct. 25) – Human Rights and Human Trafficking

Carole S. Vance. 2012. "Innocence and Experience: Melodramatic Narratives of Sex Trafficking and Their Consequences for Law and Policy," *History of the Present*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (Fall 2012), pp. 200-218

Optional:

- United Nations. 1948. "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights." At <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml>
- Chin-Dahler, Patrick. 2010. "Universal Human Rights, Cultural Relativism and the Asian Values Debate." East Asia Forum. 9 October. At <http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2010/10/09/universal-human-rights-cultural-relativism-and-the-asian-values-debate/>
- Butenhoff, Linda. 1999. "East Meets West: Human Rights in Hong Kong." In Peter Van Ness, ed., *Debating Human Rights*, pp. 101-119. London; New York: Routledge.
- Davis, Michael. 1998. "Constitutionalism and Political Culture: The Debate over Human Rights and Asian Values." *Harvard Human Rights Journal* 11: 109-147.
- Mauzy, Diane K. 1997. "The Human Rights and 'Asian Values' Debate in Southeast Asia: Trying to Clarify the Key Issues." *The Pacific Review* 10(2): 210-236.
- Renteln, Alison Dundes. 1988. "The Concepts of Human Rights." *Anthropos* 83: 343-364.

Week 9 (Nov. 1) – Sexuality: Unthinkable Pleasure or Forbidden Sin?

1. Kereishi, Hanif. 2011. "It's a sin: the *Kama Sutra* and the search for pleasure", *Critical Quarterly*, April 2011, Vol. 53(1), pp. 1-5. **OR**
2. 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

Optional:

- 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>
- 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
- Amy DeRogatis. 2005. "What Would Jesus Do? Sexuality and Salvation in Protestant Evangelical Sex Manuals, 1950s to the Present," *Church History*, Vol. 74, No. 1 (Mar., 2005), pp. 97-137

Week 10 (Nov. 8) -- Education for Who and for What?

- 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/articl>
- 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>

Optional:

Chapter 10: Education in *Sociology: themes and perspectives*, edited by Michael Haralambos, Martin Holborn, Steve Chapman, Stephen Moore. London: Collins, 2013, 8th edition. (from page 625 to 629)

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)

Weis, Lois and Kristin Cipollone. 2013. "Class work': producing privilege and social mobility in elite US secondary schools," *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, 34:5-6, pp. 701-722.

Week 11 (Nov. 15) – Leisure for Social Classes?

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.

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.

Choose one optional readings for a class discussion:

1.a 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. **OR**

1.b. 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.

2. 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.

Week 12 (Nov. 22) – Group Presentations

Each group will be given a 20min. + 10min. Q&A time allowance. The orders of the groups will be randomly assigned.

Week 13 (Nov. 29) – Group Presentations (cont.) + Conclusion