

**Anth 1020**  
**Anthropology: the Study of Culture**  
**Spring 2020**

Lecture: Wednesday 3:30-5:15, YIA LT8

Tutorials: Wednesday 5:30 – 6:15, YIA 511 (and Zoom)  
 Thursday 11:30am – 12:15pm, NAH 401  
 Thursday 12:30pm – 1:15pm, NAH 401 and TBA

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 Office Hours: on Zoom by appt

Tutor: Ping-hsiu Alice LIN [alice.linph@link.cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:alice.linph@link.cuhk.edu.hk)

### Course Description

This course introduces students to the basics of anthropology, its role within the humanities, and its relevance to modern-day society. It addresses the basic question of how our cultural and social shaping in large part makes us what we are as human beings. The course focuses on the similarities and differences in human societies and cultures, in order to promote a fuller and deeper understanding of the nature and meaning of being human in today's world. In this semester, the course will focus around the theme of religion and wonder in urban life. We will explore the diversity of religious life, its solidarities, negotiations and contestations in urban spaces across the globe.

### Learning Outcomes

1. Students will acquire a holistic understanding of different regions, cultures and societies across the globe;
2. Students will develop their own judgment and sense of values through the comparisons of different regions, cultures, and societies;
3. Students will acquire skills in analyzing contemporary social problems;
4. Students will come to understand how anthropology is linked to the humanities in its emphasis on the culturally sensitive understanding of common human concerns.

### Assessment Summary

Grade Item	Percentage	Due Date
Attendance and Participation	10%	Live and Zoom
Take-Home Midterm Exam	30%	March 10
Out of Class Assignment 1	10%	March 27
Out of Class Assignment 2	10%	April 24
Take-Home Final Exam	40%	May 6

### Assessment Details

- 1) **Tutorial Participation:** Part of your responsibility is regular attendance and participation in tutorial discussion in person or on ZOOM. The awarding of high participation points comes with good attendance and active, thoughtful, consistent class participation, the kind that reveals your thorough preparation and engagement with class materials. This means contributing your own ideas as well as providing

constructive responses to other students' comments. Attendance will be taken for the lectures and tutorials on Zoom.

- 2) **Midterm Exam:** You will be given a take-home midterm exam with short-answer questions based on the revised readings and lecture presentations. The questions will be distributed about one-week before the due date. This should be in English, 12-point font, Times New Roman. Due on **March 10**, upload to Veriguide.
- 3) **Out-Of-Class Assignments (20 %):** To help you apply the topics and readings to contemporary problems and issues, you will have to finish **two** out-of-class assignments. For these assignments you have to find sources that can be understood or investigated through the specific concepts, theories or problems discussed in the readings. You are free in your selection. Sources could be a newspaper article, 'youtube' clip, blogpost, movie, advertisement, song, etc. The only restriction is that the source you chose has to be in English (online link or PDF). As part of this assignment you will have to write a short accompanying note, in which you explain why the source you chose is related to the class readings of the week, what anthropological questions or problems it raises, or answers it provides. This note should be about 200 words. **Assignment 1 is due by March 27**, and **Assignment 2 by April 24**. Please post your assignment on **Blackboard**.
- 4) **Final Exam:** You will be given a take-home final exam with short-answer questions based on the revised readings and lecture presentations. The questions will be distributed about one-week before the due date. This should be in English, 12-point font, Times New Roman. Due on **May 6**, upload to Veriguide

Please turn in your work on time. Late assignments will be deducted one-third of a letter grade per day (A to A- for example). All written assignments must be submitted to VeriGuide. Assignments without a signed declaration from VeriGuide will not be graded.

**Grade descriptors** for the assessment of this course:

Grade	Overall course
A	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
A-	Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.
B	Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.
C	Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.
D	Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.
F	Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

## Course outline and readings

### Week 1 (January 8)

#### Introductions

No readings

### Week 2 (January 15)

#### How to think like an Anthropologist

Engelke, Matthew. *How to Think Like an Anthropologist*. Princeton University Press, 2019. Introduction (Read 1-15, 23-24, skim 16-23).

Lee, Richard B. "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari". Chapter 2, in Spradley and McCurdy, *Conformity and Culture*, 2012.

### Week 3 (January 22)

#### Adventures in Modern Dwelling in India

Srinivas, Tulasi. *The Cow in the Elevator: An Anthropology of Wonder*. Duke University Press, 2018. Chapter 1, pp. 34-57 (skim 40-45).

### Week 4 (January 29)

#### Holiday

(February 5)

NO CLASS

(February 12)

NO CLASS

### Week 5 (February 19)

#### *Reminder: The following are on ZOOM*

#### Immateriality in Hong Kong

Burchardt, Marian, and Mariske Westendorp. "The Im-Materiality of Urban Religion: Towards an Ethnography of Urban Religious Aspirations." *Culture and Religion* 19, no. 2 (April 3, 2018): 160–76. (Skip 163-166).

### Week 6 (February 26)

#### Climate Change along the Jamuna River

Khan, Naveeda. "Dogs and humans and what earth can be: Filaments of Muslim ecological thought." *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 4, no. 3 (2014): 245-264.

### Week 7 (March 4) (Midterm Questions Given Out)

#### Storytelling and Misunderstanding

Bohannon, Laura. "Shakespeare in the Bush." Chapter 5, in Spradley and McCurdy, *Conformity and Culture*, 2012.

**Week 8 (March 11)**

**The Sacred Politics and Social Justice in Cairo**

Mittermaier, Amira. "Bread, Freedom, Social Justice: The Egyptian Uprising and a Sufi Khidma." *Cultural Anthropology* 29, no. 1 (February 3, 2014): 54–79.

**Week 9 (March 18)**

**Christian Voices in Seoul**

Harkness, Nicholas. "Voicing Christian Aspiration: The Semiotic Anthropology of Voice in Seoul." *Ethnography* 16, no. 3 (September 1, 2015): 313–30.

**Week 10 (March 25)**

**Becoming a Woman in Mexico City**

Napolitano, Valentina. "Becoming a mujercita: rituals, fiestas and religious discourses." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* (1997): 279-296.

**Week 11 (April 1) – Reading Week, No Class**

**Week 12 (April 8)**

**Territorial Cults in Suzhou**

Goossaert, Vincent. "Territorial Cults and the Urbanization of the Chinese World." In *Handbook of Religion and the Asian City: Aspiration and Urbanization in the Twenty-First Century*, edited by Peter Van der Veer, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015. pp. 52–68

**Week 13 (April 15)**

**Competing Carnival in Rio de Janeiro**

Oosterbaan, Martijn. "Transposing Brazilian Carnival: Religion, Cultural Heritage, and Secularism in Rio de Janeiro." *American Anthropologist* 119, no. 4 (2017): 697–709.

**Week 14 (April 22)**

**Mission in the City: Pentecostals in London**

Fesenmyer, Leslie. "Bringing the Kingdom to the City: Mission as Placemaking Practice amongst Kenyan Pentecostals in London." *City & Society* 31, no. 1 (2019): 34–54.

**Week 15 (April 29) (Final Exam Questions Given Out)**

**Globalizing Sushi**

Bestor, Theodore C. "How sushi went global." Chapter 32, in Spradley and McCurdy, *Conformity and Culture*, 2012.

**Final Exam Due to Veriguide (May 6)**