

Lecture: Tuesday 13:30 – 15:15, NAH12
 Tutorials: 1) Tuesday 15:30 – 16:15, NAH12
 2) TBA

Lecturer: Wai-Man TANG NAH302, wymantang@cuhk.edu.hk
 (Office hours: Tuesday 16:30-17:15 or by appointment)
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Course Description

This course will introduce the key topics and concepts in cultural anthropology. All of us live in society. From small issues in our daily lives e.g. your interaction with your classmates in the classroom to large critical issues in the world, e.g. the Ebola outbreak, all of them can be understood in anthropological terms. The course will examine different cross-cultural examples and teach us how to understand the examples from a holistic perspective. The purpose is to train us not to take things for granted but to develop a critical mind and a better understanding of others as well as ourselves. In this course, you will come across this kind of questions: What is culture? What is society? Why is there inequality? What are the functions of different social institutions? What are their norms? Are there any alternatives to these norms?

What you will learn:

Student taking this course will:

- learn how to use anthropological perspectives to understand our society and other people;
- appreciate the diversity of culture; and
- acquire a critical mind to examine any social issues.

Readings and Books:

Most of the readings are from these two books:

Lavenda, Robert H., and Emily Schultz, 2013. *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education (5th edition).

Spradley, James, and David W. McCurdy, eds. 2012 & 2015. *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th & 15th edition).

You are required to read the selected articles in Spradley and McCurdy (2012 & 2015).

Course Requirements:

Class Participation:	20%
Ethnographic Paper:	30%
Final Exam:	50%

1) Class Participation (20%):

You are expected to attend all the tutorials, read the assigned readings and participate in the discussion. In case you need to take a leave of absence from tutorial, you can consider writing a response paper based on the assigned readings with 400-500 words as your class participation.

2) Fieldtrip Report (30%)

In this course, we will arrange a fieldtrip to visit ethnic minority communities in Hong Kong. The theme is cross-cultural experience. Write a 4-5 page paper for the fieldtrip. The paper should include your field observations and discussion with reference to the theme and assigned readings. Instead of merely describing your field observations or summarizing the readings, you should raise critical points of views. Submit your paper **TWO** weeks after the fieldtrip.

After finishing your paper, please submit soft copies to both VeriGuide and to the course website. Hard copies are not required. The paper should be written in the following format: Double line spacing, Times New Roman, and font 12. Please submit your assignment on time. Marks will be deducted (i.e. one point per day) for late submission.

3) Final Exam (50%):

The final exam includes 40 MC questions (40%), three short questions (30%), and one (out of two) essay question (30%). It is an in-class exam and the questions cover all the topics in the lecture.

Course Schedule:

(Please note that tutorials take place after the lecture.)

*=required reading

- 1) Introduction (3 Sep.) *No tutorial*
- 2) Culture and Anthropology (10 Sep.)
Lavenda and Schultz. 2013. "Chapter 1: Anthropology." & "Chapter 2: Culture." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.1-32. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
*Gmelch, George. 2012. "Nice Girls Don't Talk to Rastas." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.31-36. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
*Abu-Lughod, Lila. 2012. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?" In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.208-16. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
- 3) Expressive Culture (I): Language, Symbols, and Art (17 Sep.)
Lavenda and Schultz. 2013. "Chapter 3: Language." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.33-50. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
*Tannen, Deborah. 2012. "Conversation Style: Talking on the Job." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp. 61-68. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
*Miner, Horace. 2012. "Bodily Rituals among the Nacirema." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.287-92. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
- 4) Expressive Culture (II): Religion and Worldview (24 Sep.)
Lavenda and Schultz. 2013. "Chapter 4: Making Meaning: Worldview, Religion, and Art." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.51-74. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
*Freed, Stanley A., and Ruth S. Freed. 2012. "Taraka's Ghost." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp. 260-65. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
*Mueller, Rachel. 2015. "The Worst Lover: Boyfriend Spirits in Senegal." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.258-65. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (15th edition).
- 5) Holiday (1 Oct.)
- 6) Fieldtrip: Visit ethnic minority communities in Hong Kong (5 or 6 Oct.)
- 7) The Dimensions of Social Organization (8 Oct.)
Lavenda and Schultz. 2013. "Chapter 5: The Dimensions of Social Organization." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.75-88. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
*Fish, Jeffery. 2012. "Mixed Blood." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.217-26. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
*Rolston, Jessica Smith. 2015. "Women in the Mine." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.128-35 Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (15th edition).
- 8) Political Anthropology (15 Oct.)
Lavenda and Schultz. 2013. "Chapter 6: Political Anthropology." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.95-118. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
*Harris, Marvin. 2012. "Life without Chiefs." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp. 238-45. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
*Nordstrom, Carolyn. 2015. "Illegal Economics and the Untold Story of the Amputees." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.245-52. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (15th edition).
- 9) Economic Anthropology (22 Oct.)
Lavenda and Schultz. 2013. "Chapter 7: Economic Anthropology." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.124-44. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.
*Cronk, Lee. 2012. "Reciprocity and the Power of Giving." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.119-24. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).
*Bourgois, Philippe. 2012. "Poverty, Office Work, and the Crack Alternative" In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.125-35. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).

10) Families, Kinship and Descent (29 Oct.)

Lavenda and Schultz. 2013. "Chapter 8: Relatedness: Kinship and Descent." & "Chapter 9: Marriage and Family." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.145-70. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

*Wolf, Margery. 2012. "Uterine Families and the Women's Community." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.179-84. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).

*Fioratta, Susanna. 2015. "Marriage and Adulthood in West Africa." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.170-76. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (15th edition).

11) Globalization and the Culture of Capitalism (5 Nov.)

Lavenda and Schultz. 2013. "Chapter 10: Globalization and the Culture of Capitalism." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.171-96. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

*Bestor, Theodore. 2012. "How Sushi Went Global." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.296-305. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).

*Guneratne, Arjun, and Kate Bjork. 2012. "Village Walks: Tourism and Globalization among the Tharu of Nepal." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.306-15. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).

12) No lesson (12 Nov.) Replaced by fieldtrip

13) The Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Medicine (19 Nov.)

Lavenda and Schultz. 2013. "Chapter 11: The Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Medicine." In *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.197-216. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

*Barrett, Ron. 2012. "Medical Anthropology: Leprosy on the Ganges." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.351-58. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (14th edition).

*Crate, Susan. 2015. "We are Going Underwater." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, pp.88-95. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (15th edition).

14) Final Exam (26 Nov.)

Grade descriptors are as follows 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.