

Department of Cultural Studies

Course Title	: Thinking Like An Anthropologist
Course Code	: CLB9018
Recommended Study Year	: Any
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Lecture and Tutorial
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category in Core Curriculum	: Cluster Course: Category “Humanities and the Arts”
Prerequisite(s)	: Nil
Co-requisite(s)	: Nil
Exclusion(s);	: Nil
Brief Course Description	: This course aims at providing the students with a basic understanding of the diversity of human culture and society in the world. The pedagogical approach of this course is designed to teach the students with diverse academic or professional backgrounds to think <i>like</i> an anthropologist. The course is structured around a number of key questions, which are drawn mainly from cultural anthropology and are foundational for all branches of the humanities. By discussing these key questions, students will learn what it means to be human and its diverse possibilities. Other than rendering the strange familiar and the familiar strange, the course will help the students to develop insight into how the seemingly most practical and commonsensical aspects of any person’s life can be most broadly informed by the shifting cultural and social contexts of which they consider themselves a part.
Aims	: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To introduce students to make use of anthropological concepts and approaches to reflect on cultural variation and the plasticity of humans;2. To educate students in anthropological knowledge and insights to see other people’s points of view and ways of life with which they are not familiar;3. To facilitate students to be reflexive of their own culture;4. To enable students to develop an attitude of understanding and appreciating cultural diversity
Learning Outcomes	: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Understand the usefulness and relevance of the anthropological key questions2. Analyze major issues of cultural diversity and differences with

anthropological concepts and knowledge

3. Critically evaluate one's own cultural experiences and social life with anthropological perspectives
4. Demonstrate an understanding of and appreciation in cultural diversity

Indicative Content

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1. What is Culture? - The Conceptual Question
 - The characteristics of culture
 - Race as a cultural construct
 2. How Do I Learn About Culture? - The Naturalistic Question
 - Fieldwork methods
 - Science and ethics of anthropological research
 3. What is the Context for This Practice or Idea? - The Holistic Question
 - Types of holistic connections
 - Kinship and economic exchanges
 4. Do Other Societies Do Something Like This? - The Comparative Question
 - Comparing this culture to others
 - Emic and etic perspectives
 5. What Was This Idea or Practice Like in the Past? - The Temporal Question
 - What causes culture change?
 - History and cultures
 6. How are Human Biology, Culture, and Environment interacting? - The Bio-Cultural Question
 - Adaptive advantage
 - Cultural boundaries and environment
 7. What Are the Groups and Relationships? - The Social-Structural Question
 - Social structure

- Family formation
8. What Does That Mean? - The Interpretive Question
- Meaning in languages
 - Meaning in ritual and myth
9. What is My Perspective? - The Reflexive Question
- What's wrong with scientific anthropology?
 - The ethnography as mirror
10. Am I Judging this? – The Relativistic Question
- Cultural Shock
 - Ethnocentrism
11. What do the People Say? – The Dialogic Question
- What is an anthropological dialogue?
 - Ways to increase the dialogical qualities

Teaching Method	: Lecture, student's class presentation and tutorial discussion
Measurement of Learning Outcomes	: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Final examination assesses the students' comprehension of the concepts and issues. (LO 1 & 2) 2. Assignments and exercises measure the students' ability to make use each of the anthropologist's key questions to relate and apply them in analyzing cultural matters. (LO 2) 3. Tutorial class discussion and participation measures how thorough the students can reflect upon their own cultural experiences and how well critical attitudes are upheld. (LO 3 & 4)
Assessment	: Continuous Assessment 70 % [participation in class discussion 20%] [tutorial presentation 20%] [assignment and exercise 30%] Final Examination 30%

Required Readings

Omohundro, John, T. *Thinking Like An Anthropologist. A Practical Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*, 1st ed., New York: McGraw-Hill, 2007.

Supplementary Readings

Crapo, Richley *Cultural Anthropology. Understanding Ourselves and Others*, New York: MaCraw-Hill, 2002.

De Vita, Philip, ed. *Stumbling Toward Truth: Anthropologist At Work*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland, 2000.

Dresch, Paul, Wendy James & David Parkin, ed. *Anthropologists In A Wider World: Essays on Field Research*. New York: Berghahn Books, 2000.

Garbarino, Merwyn S. *Sociocultural Theory in Anthropology: A Short History*. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland, 2013.

Gruenbaum, Ellen *The Female Circumcision Controversy: An Anthropological Perspective*. Baltimore, MD: John Hopkins University Press, 2000.

Gunde, Richard *Culture and Customs of China*, London: Greenwood Press, 2002

Kuper, Adam *Culture: The Anthropologist's Account*. MA: Harvard University Press, 2000.

Monaghan, J. & Just, P. *Social and Cultural Anthropology. A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Malinowski, Bronislaw *Argonauts of the Western Pacific: An Account of Native Enterprise and Adventure in the Archipelagoes of Melanesian New Guinea, Enhanced Edition*. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press, 2014.

Mead, Margaret *Coming of Age in Samoa*. New York: Perennial, 2001.

Welsch, Robert, Kirk Endicott, eds. *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in Cultural Anthropology*. 2nd ed., Guildford, CT: McGraw-Hill, 2005.

Yamado, Takako *The Worldview of the Ainu*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001.

Important Notes:

1. Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 2 hours of class contact and 7 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
2. Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
3. Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
4. To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.