

## CURE1000 Sem 2, 2024/2025

### Why Culture Matters

<b>Lecturer: Dr. Peichi Chung</b>	<b>Time: Tuesdays 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM</b>
<b>Office Phone: 39431417</b>	<b>Venue: Yatsumoto Int'l Acad Park 503</b>
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#### Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the humanities to broaden students' understanding of culture in general and the relevance of the humanities to contemporary society. The course explores the relationships among cultural appreciation, cultural criticism, and social commitment; it also examines how related knowledge and practices are valuable in enriching, on the one hand, students' value system and lifestyle and, on the other hand, the overall betterment of society, particularly in this age of development. The course is not theory-based, but its purpose is to expose the student to the strains of Humanities thought and practice relevant to contemporary society, particularly that of Hong Kong and China/Asia. Relevant contemporary issues will be drawn extensively to explain the values of the Humanities in the digital age and the need for critical studies of culture in Hong Kong and China/Asia.

#### Course Objectives:

On successful completion of the course, students are expected to:

- Understand that culture is important in the building of a better society.
- Gain the ability to analyze the diversity of values and interests in society critically,
- Draw on several disciplinary origins within areas of the arts, humanities, and social sciences to appreciate the richness and usefulness of interdisciplinary approaches.
- Gain a critical respect for local histories and traditions and a crucial respect in modern human cultures.

#### Learning Activities:

- The teaching modes include 2 hours of lecture and 1 hour of interactive tutorial every week. Students should feel free to express their observations about culture, humanity, and contemporary society in the class. The class relies on the students' active participation. Any sharing of ideas and comments is highly encouraged and valued in this class.

#### Assignments and coursework:

- Lecture Attendance and Participation **20%**: Regular attendance at class meetings is fundamental to good learning outcomes in this course.
- Tutorial Attendance and Participation: **30%**
- In-Class Book Report 20%: Students will collectively read and present a book in the tutorials. You will need to choose a topic (on a particular subject related to the book)

and make a presentation open to class discussion. You must also submit a two-page book reading report (500 words minimum). The report will serve as a preliminary writing essay for your final project.

- Final essay **30%**: The final essay will be a short-form research paper related to issues that we discuss in class. Students can choose any topic that reflects cultural issues in any part of the world. The format of the essay includes a double-spaced paper of at least 1,000 words. Students are free to demonstrate their creative writing capability; however, at least five references should be included as academic resources in the paper.

## Weekly Schedule

### Week 1: Introduction to the Course and Hong Kong Cultural Studies (Jan 6, 2025)

§ Harrison, Lawrence (2000). "Introduction: Why Culture Matters", In Harrison, L. & Huntington, S. (Eds). *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress*. Pp. xvii – xxi; xxxii-xxxiv. New York: Basic Books.

§ 吳俊雄. (2006). "當麥嘜遇上文化研究". 香港·文化·研究. 吳俊雄, 馬傑偉, 呂大樂編. Pp. 115-154. 香港: 香港大學出版社.

### Week 2: Culture Matters: From the Perspective of East Asia (Jan 14, 2025)

§ Iwabuchi, Koichi. (2004). "Nostalgia for a (Different) Asian Modernity: Media Consumption of 'Asia' in Japan. Online Document Available in <<https://genius.com/Koichi-iwabuchi-nostalgia-for-a-different-asian-modernity-media-consumption-of-asia-in-japan-annotated>>

§ Kim, Youna. (2023). "Introduction: Situating Korean Popular Culture in the Global Culture Landscape," In Youna Kim (Ed). *Introducing Korean Popular Culture*. Pp. 1-19. London: Routledge.

### Week 3: Culture Matters: From the Perspective of (De)-Globalization (Jan 21, 2025)

§ Habermas, Jurgen. (2010). A partial reading of the article: "The Concept of Human Dignity and the Realistic Utopia of Human Rights," *Metaphilosophy*, 41(4): 464-471. (Interested students are welcome to complete the entire reading till page 480.)

§ Watch the Movie "*Never Let Me Go*" (2010) by Kazuo Ishiguro in the CUHK Library Web Site with On Campus Access in the Virtual Screening Room: <https://easyaccess1.lib.cuhk.edu.hk/limited/NLMG.html>

### Week 4: Chinese New Year Holiday. No Class Meeting. (Jan 28, 2025)

### Week 5: The Importance of Mass Culture and Popular Culture (Feb 4, 2025)

§ Hamm, John Christopher. (2009). "Canonizing the Popular: The Case of Jin Yong," In Rojas, Carlos & Eileen Cheng-yin Chow. (Eds). *Rethinking Chinese Popular Culture: Cannibalizations of the Cannon*. Pp. 75-88. New York: Routledge.

§ Jenkins, H., Shresthova, S. & Peters-Lazaro, G. (2020). "Part 1: How Do We Imagine a Better World" In *Popular Culture and the Civic Imagination: Case*

*Studies of Creative Social Change*. Pp. 31-42. New York: New York University Press.

### **Week 6: Enlightenment and Modernity (Feb 11, 2025)**

§ Hamilton, Peter. (1996). "Chapter 1: What was the Enlightenment? & Enlightenment as the Pursuit of Modernity," In Hall, Stuart, Held, David, Hubert, Don & Thompson, Kenneth. (Eds). *Modernity: An Introduction to Modern Societies*. Pp. 24-47. MA: Blackwell Publishing.

§ Zhang, Wei. (2010). "Chapter 2" In *What is Chinese Enlightenment: Can China Answer Kant's Question?* Pp. 29-43. Albany, NY: SUNY Press.

### **Week 7: History and Memory (Feb 18, 2025)**

§ Lee, Min Jin. (2017). *Pachinko*. New York: Grand Central Publishing. (eBook access through CUHK Library [here](#))

§ Supplementary class work:  
Watch the *Pachinko* TV Series from Apple TV + [here](#).

### **Week 8: What Does Class Mean? (Feb 25, 2025)**

§ Braham, Peter (1996). Chapter 9: Divisions of Labor. In Hall, Stuart, Held, David, Hubert, Don & Thompson, Kenneth. (Eds). *Modernity: An Introduction to Modern Societies*. Pp. 307-342. MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Book reading report due. Online submission to Blackboard.

### **Week 9: Reading Week (March 4, 2025)**

### **Week 10: The Importance of Cultivating Gender Sensibility (Mar 11, 2025)**

§ Weeks, Jeffrey. (1996). Chapter 11: The Body and Sexuality. In Stuart Hall, David Held, Don Hubert & Kenneth Thompson (Eds). *Modernity: An Introduction to Modern Societies*. Pp. 364-394. MA: Blackwell Publishing.

§ Cho, Joseph, Ma, Trevor & Kam, Lucetta. (2020). "Feminist Activism in Hong Kong." In Jieyu Liu & Junko Yamashita (Eds). *Routledge Handbook of East Asian Gender Studies*. Pp. 95-105. London: Routledge.

### **Week 11: Development, Capitalism, and Exploitation (March 18, 2025)**

§ Sen, Amartya. (1999). Chapters 1 & 3. In *Development as Freedom*. New York: Anchor Books.

The in-class book presentation in the tutorial begins this week.

### **Week 12: Community & Place-Based Identity (March 25, 2025)**

§馬國明. (2009). "Chapter 1 & Chapter 2," *路邊政治經濟學*. 進一步多媒體有限公司. [Only two chapters are required for class reading. However, you are highly recommended to finish reading the whole book.]

§ Apaydin, Veysel. (2020). “The Interlinkage of Cultural Memory, Heritage, Discourses of Construction, Transformation and Destruction”. In Veysel, Apaydin (Ed). *Critical Perspectives on Cultural Memory and Heritage: Construction, Transformation and Destruction*. Pp. 13-29. London: University College London.

In-class book presentation in tutorial continues this week

### **Week 13: Cities & Alternative Imagination (April 1, 2025)**

§ Gulick, John. (1989). “Chapters 3 & 7: Magnitudes & Subcultures,” In *The Humanity of Cities: An Introduction to Urban Societies*. Pp. 43-65; 182-217. Westport, CT: Bergin & Garvey Publishers.

In-class book presentation in tutorial ends this week

### **Week 14: Fieldtrips (April 8, 2025)**

To be announced.

### **Week 15: Conclusion & Review (April 15, 2025)**

Consultation week. No class meeting.

Final essay due. Online submission to Blackboard

### **Reading list:**

- Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom* (New York: Knopf, 1999)
- Carlos Rojas and Eileen Chow (eds) *Rethinking Chinese Popular Culture: Cannibalizations of the Canon* (London: Routledge, 2009)
- Christopher Newfield & Ronald Strickland (eds). *After Political Correctness: The Humanities and Society in the 1990s* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1995)
- Harrison, L. & Huntington, S. (Eds). *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress*. Pp. xvii – xxi; xxxiv-xxxii. New York: Basic Books.
- John Gulick, *The Humanity of Cities: An Introduction to Urban Societies* (Bergin & Garvey paperback, 1988).
- Jieyu Liu & Junko Yamashita (Eds). *Routledge Handbook of East Asian Gender Studies*. (London: Routledge 2020)
- Lee, Min Jin. (2017). *Pachinko*. New York: Grand Central Publishing
- (Film) Kazuo Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go* (2010)
- Stuart Hall, et. Al. (eds) *Modernity: An Introduction to Modern Societies* (Wiley-Blackwell, 1996)
- Veysel, Apaydin (Ed). *Critical Perspectives on Cultural Memory and Heritage: Construction, Transformation and Destruction*. (London: University College London 2020)
- Wei Zhang, *What is Enlightenment: Can China Answer Kant's Question* (Albany: SUNY 2010)
- Youna Kim (Ed). *Introducing Korean Popular Culture*. (London: Routledge. 2023)
- 吳俊雄, 馬傑偉, 呂大樂: <香港·文化·研究> (香港 : 香港大學出版社, 2006)
- 馬國明: <路邊政治經濟學>(香港 : 進一步多媒體有限公司, 2009)

## Honesty in Academic Work: A Guide for Students and Teachers:

The Chinese University of Hong Kong places very high importance on honesty in academic work submitted by students, and adopts a policy of *zero tolerance* on cheating and plagiarism. Any related offence will lead to disciplinary action including termination of studies at the University. Students must submit their assignments via VeriGuide: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/veriguide>.

Although cases of cheating or plagiarism are rare at the University, everyone should make himself/herself familiar with the content of this website and thereby help avoid any practice that would not be acceptable.

Section 1	What is plagiarism [ <a href="http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p01.htm">http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p01.htm</a> ]
Section 2	Proper use of source material [ <a href="http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p02.htm">http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p02.htm</a> ]
Section 3	Citation styles [ <a href="http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p03.htm">http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p03.htm</a> ]
Section 4	Plagiarism and copyright violation [ <a href="http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p04.htm">http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p04.htm</a> ]
Section 5	CUHK regulations on honesty in academic work [ <a href="http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p05.htm">http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p05.htm</a> ]
Section 6	CUHK disciplinary guidelines and procedures [ <a href="http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p06.htm">http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p06.htm</a> ]
Section 7	Guide for teachers and departments [ <a href="http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p07.htm">http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p07.htm</a> ]
Section 8	Recommended material to be included in course outlines [ <a href="http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p08.htm">http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p08.htm</a> ]
Section 9	Recommended declaration to be included in every assignment handed in [ <a href="http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p09.htm">http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p09.htm</a> ]
Section 10	Electronic submission of term papers [ <a href="http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p10.htm">http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p10.htm</a> ]