

# CURE1000 Sem 2, 2023/2024

## Why Culture Matters

<b>Lecturer: Dr. Peichi Chung</b>	<b>Time: Tuesdays 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM</b>
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### Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the Humanities, with an aim to broaden students' understanding of culture in general as well as 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 of enriching, on the one hand, students' own value system and life-style, 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 that are 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 in critically analyzing the diversity of values and interests in society,
- Draw on a number of disciplinary origins within areas of the arts, humanities and social sciences to appreciate the richness and the usefulness of interdisciplinary approach.
- Gain a critical respect for local histories and traditions, and a critical respect for 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 active participation of the students. Any sharing of ideas and comments is highly encouraged and valued in this class.

### Assignments and coursework:

- Lecture Attendance and Participation **20%**: Your regular attendance to class meeting is fundamental to good learning outcome in this course.
- Tutorial Attendance and Participation: **30%**

- In-Class Book Project Report **20%**: Students will collectively read a book and do a presentation in the tutorials. You will need to choose a topic (on a particular subject related to the book) and make a presentation that is open to class discussion. You will also need to 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 short form research paper related to issues that we discuss in the class. Students can decide any topic that reflects cultural issues in any part of the world. The format of the essay includes a double-spaced paper with minimum 1,000 words. Students are free to demonstrate their creative writing capability, however, at least 5 references should be included as academic resource in the paper.

## Weekly Schedule

### Week 1: Introduction to the Course and Hong Kong Cultural Studies (Jan 9, 2024)

§ Harrison, Lawrence (2000). "Introduction: Why Culture Matters", In Harrison, L. & Huntington, S. (Eds). *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress*. Pp. xvii – xxi; xxxiv-xxxii. 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 16, 2024)

§ 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 23, 2024)

§ Habermas, Jurgen. (2021). 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 welcomed to complete the entire readings 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: The Importance of Mass Culture and Popular Culture (Jan 30, 2024)

§ 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*. New York: New York University Press.

### **Week 5: Enlightenment and Modernity (Feb 6, 2024)**

§ 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 1: What is Chinese Enlightenment? Can China Answer Kant’s Questions?” In *What is Enlightenment: Can China Answer Kant’s Question?* Pp. 9-43. Albany, NY: SUNY Press.

### **Week 6: Chinese New Year Holiday. No Class Meeting. (Feb 13, 2024)**

### **Week 7: History and Memory (Feb 20, 2024)**

§ Lee, Min Jin. (2017). *Pachinko*. New York: Grand Central Publishing. (ebook access through CUHK library:  
<https://web.p.ebscohost.com/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook/bmx1YmtfXzE0ODQxODFfX0FO0?sid=328efaac-9a01-41f8-97be-9e12695717ac@redis&vid=0&format=EK&rid=1>

§ Supplementary class work:  
Watch *Pachinko* TV Series from Apple TV +:  
<https://tv.apple.com/hk/show/pachinko/umc.cmc.17vf6g68dy89kk111nbn6min4>

### **Week 8: What Does Class Mean? (Feb 27, 2024)**

§ 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 5, 2024)**

### **Week 10: The Importance of Cultivating Gender Sensibility (Mar 12, 2024)**

§ 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*. London: Routledge.

### **Week 11: Development, Capitalism, and Exploitation (March 19, 2024)**

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

In-class book presentation in tutorial begins this week.

### **Week 12: Community & Place-Based Identity (March 26, 2024)**

§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 2, 2024)**

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

In-class book presentation in tutorial ends this week

### **Week 14: Guest Talk/Fieldtrip (April 9, 2024)**

To be announced.

### **Week 15: Conclusion & Review (April 16, 2024)**

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> ]