GENA2212
Debates in Human Values

Lecture: Wednesdays, 10:30am – 12:15pm
Venue: Tsang Shiu Tim (UCA 104)
Instructor: Dr FAMING, Manynooch
Office hour: Thurs.: 10-11am (via Zoom); by appointment (F2F)
Email: nychma@cuhk.edu.hk
RA: Adeline Leung (1155111011@link.cuhk.edu.hk)

Course Description

This course discusses the ongoing issues under modernity and globalized world context. Within these contexts people share similar ‘values’, such as education, economy, freedom, sentiment, taste, beliefs, etc. that one holds to ‘oneself’ and/or to/against ‘others’. The course also leads students to discuss how and why we have come to hold certain values. Through a socio-cultural perspective, the course introduces several fundamental themes and debates in human values. The course provides no black or white answers and/or values but to provide students with analytical skills to these debates.

Course Objectives
By the end of the course, students will be able to:
1. Develop a reflexive skill in understanding human values;
2. Critically reflect and self-reflect values in one’s own and/or a cross-cultural context;
3. Apply key theoretical concepts to analyze values in one’s own context and/or cross-culturally.

Course Requirements
1. Participations
   A. Class Participation: 20%
   B. Group Debates: 40%
2. Independent Projects:
   C. One Reflexive Memo: 20%
   D. Final Paper: 20%
Course Assessments details

A. Class Participation (including Blackboard responses)  20%
   • Discussion: Share your thoughts and questions in class, Volunteer answers to others’ questions, Volunteer to respond to the weekly presentation’s debates
   • Commenting on group’s presentation
     Students are expected to contribute to commenting to the groups’ debate presentation.

B. Group Presentation  40%
   You will be assigned into a group of 3-4. A debate presentation will be in form of two teams discussing issues of our weekly topic. Please submit your presentation file to me either before class or by the end of your presentation.

C. Reflexive memo  20%
   Each student will submit a reflection of 1,000 words. You will reflect on the following options (choose ONE only):
   1. One or two of the readings listed in this course (e.g., W1 to W12). (A few samples of reflection are available on Blackboard). (Due Week: 8 by 5pm). Students can read and reflect the reading(s) from W7 or W12 but the due date remains unchanged.
   2. One or two values from the cases discussed during the class (Due Week: 10 by 5pm).
   3. Your debate presentation. (Due one week after your presentation; i.e., before class of the following class meeting). For example, if students’ debate is week 4 class, the submission time is 10am. of W5 class.

D. Final Essay (Choose ONE only)  20%
   1. Two pieces of the above reflexive memos. That is, if students have submitted 2 of the items in section C by the due dates, students are not required to submit the final essay as listed below.
   2. A paper of 1,000 words that draws on careful reading of and conversation with class themes and texts to critically analyze and advance debates in human values. Due Wednesday, 15 December 2021, 5pm.

E. Notes on Submission of written assignments
   All written assignments is not meant to give definite answers or judgments to the debates, but to demonstrate students’ intellectual skills in approaching the debates.
   Note 1: Submit a soft copy (with the signed VeriGuide receipt) to Blackboard.
   Note 2: Save your final paper in Word format, and scan your signed VeriGuide receipt into PDF format. The final paper and the VeriGuide receipt should be uploaded as two separate files.
   Note 4: Please name your final paper file 2212Final Paper Last name First name (assignment title), and your VeriGuide receipt file 2212VeriGuide Last name First name.

The both reflections and final papers are to be double-spaced and in 12-point font, Word Format. No PDF format. Please follow the Anthropology Department citation style at http://arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~ant/en/dept_thesis_style.php. Late assignments will be penalized. If for valid reasons you need to have your assignment re-scheduled, please be sure to make a timely request.

The university adopts a policy of zero tolerance on plagiarism. Any use of another person’s words or ideas, taken directly or paraphrased, without citing the source is plagiarism. This includes taking material from the Internet without citing the website. Please consult the university’s policy on academic honesty at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/.

Students are required by university policy to submit soft copies of all papers to VeriGuide. Please check the website www.cuhk.edu.hk/veriguide for information on how to submit papers through VeriGuide. Please submit a soft copy of your final paper (Word document) together with the signed VeriGuide receipt page.
**Weekly schedule**

**Week 1 (Sep. 8) – Introduction:**

**Week 2 (Sep. 15) – Human rights: a credo or common resources?**

**Week 3 (Sep. 22) – Public Holiday—No Class.**

**Week 4 (Sep. 29) -- Why do people love their country? Do they?**

**Optional:**

**Week 5 (Oct. 6) – Should we talk about ‘Black Lives Matter’ or ‘All Lives Matter’?**
Jafari Sinclaire Allen and Ryan Cecil Jobson “The Decolonizing Generation: (Race and) Theory in Anthropology since the Eighties” *Current Anthropology* 75(2) 2016

**Week 6 (Oct. 13) Class Suspended due to severe weather.**

**Week 7 (Oct. 20)– Is violence a cultural thing?**

**Other readings:**


**Week 8 (Oct. 27) – Are women’s bodies dangerous?**


Other readings:


**Week 9 (Nov. 3). Is living with the dead the foundation of our moral values?**


Other readings:


**Week 10 (Nov. 10) -- Hong Kong Core Values: Which ones are they?**


Other readings:


**Week 11 (Nov. 17)-- Education for Who and for What?**


Other readings:

Week 12 (Nov. 24) – Does Work dictate our Lifestyle and adulthood?

Week 13 (Dec. 1) -- Leisure: Does our free time reflect our social class?

Other readings:

Week 14 (Dec. 8) – “Life versus Death”

Week 15 (Dec. 15) – Final Essay Due