

Politics and Society in Hong Kong

Second Semester 2023/24

Tuesday 2:30-5:20

Instructor: Dr. Lake Lui Office:

Soc303

Office Hour: By appointment

Course Description

From “Hong Kong is China,” as asserted in *Borrowed Place, Borrowed Time* (1968), to numerous Hong Kongers’ outcry to China to “burn with us,” as illustrated in *Among the Braves* (2023), what have Hong Kong and its people gone through? We start our journey from Hong Kong’s colonial past and walk through a rather autonomous governance under “one country, two systems” to the present (almost) puppet government under China. We will delve into the changing history, society, culture, economy, and politics of Hong Kong. This course takes a critical approach to understanding Hong Kong. Since Hong Kong is still a global city and a small region that is never independent of any country, inevitably, we will situate it in relation to the UK, China, the US, or other countries. At the same time, we assess the relevance of Hong Kong to the world and dare to envision its future.

There is no prerequisite for this course. It is designed for students from all backgrounds. This is also a safe and open space for sharing thoughts, so the only requirement in the course is that students are expected to be respectful of one another's views. The course is heavily lecture-based. However, we will have discussions and occasional film appreciation sessions. To enrich the course, we will also invite guest speakers, all of whom are Hong Kongers, to speak about different subjects, including the media, religion, civil society, public administration, housing, and the diaspora of Hong Kong.

Due to the limited weeks in the semester, we could not cover all important topics. Topics include education, gender and sexuality (should have covered in my Sociology of Gender course), crime and deviance, etc. Therefore, for students working on their group projects, it would be great if they could explore topics other than those covered in the course.

Assessment

Required

- 1) Participation (20%)

2) Essay (40%)

By 2024, to what extent do you think Hong Kong is still relevant to the world? Explain your answer. Write about 2500 words. Be sure you consider various sides of the argument and different dimensions of relevance.

Deadline for submission: June 12

3) Group project OR creative production (40%)

- a) Group project: In groups of 4-5, research on a topic of interest about Hong Kong society. The presentation should contain a research question, some literature review on the topic, and their own investigation / new insights on the topic.
- b) Creative production: In groups of 4-5, create a product – a play, drama, documentary, magazine, newspaper about Hong Kong 10 years from now. Make sure that your work illustrates your understanding of Hong Kong. No science fiction please.

The guidelines are intentionally vague to open up more space for students' creativity. Here are the grading criteria:

(i) content – the depth, the accuracy of the content, the criticalness when using the materials – that the course has covered (30%), (ii) content that the students have extended from the course (30%), and (iii) creativity and audience response (40%). For the last bit, your peers will help make the judgment.

Extra credits (i.e., optional)

We have 6 guest speakers who discuss different topics of Hong Kong, ranging from politics, media, housing, to religion. For students who want to earn extra credits (up to 3 points added to the total), write a 500-word reflection on the topic based on the guest lecture. There is no maximum in the number of extra credit assignment. Thus, the total points added could go up to $6*3 = 18$ points!!!

Weekly Schedule and Required Readings:

Week 1 2024/2/20 Introduction: History and Geography of

Hong Kong Required Readings:

1. *Borrowed Place, Borrowed Time*. "Hong Kong Today". Pp. 1-40.

Suggested Readings:

Borrowed Place, Borrowed Time. "Hong Kong Today". Pp. 40-96.

Week 2 2/27 Economic Development and the Uniqueness of Hong Kong

Required Readings:

1. Hamilton, Peter. 2021. Hamilton, Peter E. Made in Hong Kong: Transpacific networks and a new history of globalization. Columbia University Press. Introduction.
2. *On the Edge*: Chapter 3.

Suggested Readings:

On the Edge: Chapter 4.

Hamilton, Gary. 1999. "Hong Kong and the rise of Capitalism in Asia" In *Commerce and Capitalism in Chinese Societies* pp. 14-34.

Lee, Ching Kwan 1997. *Gender and the South China miracle: Two worlds of factory women*. Univ of California Press.

So, Alvin Y. 1986. "The economic success of Hong Kong: Insights from a world-system perspective." *Sociological Perspectives* 29(2): 241-258.

Week 3 2024/3/5 China-Hong Kong Integration and**Conflicts Required Readings:**

1. *On the Edge*: Chapter 5 to 6

Week 4 2024/3/12 Special Topic: Government and Public Administration in Hong Kong (Guest Speaker: Natalie Wong, Political Scientist at NCCU)**Required Readings:**

1. Chiu, Stephen W.K. and Wong, S.L. eds (2012). *Repositioning the Hong Kong Government: Social Foundations and Political Challenges*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. (Chapters 3-5).

Suggested Readings:

Lam, Wai-man et. al. edited (2012), *Contemporary Hong Kong Government and Politics*, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

Lau, S.K. (1984), *Society and Politics in Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press.

Ma Ngok (2016) *The Making of a Corporatist State in Hong Kong: The Road to Sectoral Intervention*, *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 46:2, 247-266, DOI: 10.1080/00472336.2015.1084026

Burns, P. (2023), "The Chinese Communist Party in Hong Kong, Postscript", King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies. Available at:

<https://www.kfcris.com/pdf/bfd8cb8a3787838b5a544b2e4b8a968c64ec64d611f10.pdf?mibextid=9R9pXO>

Week 5 2024/3/19 Social class, class mobility, and

work Required Readings:

1. Leo F. Goodstadt. "Poverty in the Midst of Affluence: How Hong Kong Mismanaged Its Prosperity". Ch 1-3.
2. Lee, Kim-ming, Hung Wong, and Kam-ye Law. "Social polarisation and poverty in the global city: The case of Hong Kong." *China report* 43, no. 1 (2007): 1-30.

Week 6 2024/3/26 Hong Kong Social Policy and Welfare

System Required Readings:

1. Holliday, Ian, and Linda Wong. "Social policy under one country, two systems: Institutional dynamics in China and Hong Kong since 1997." *Public Administration Review* 63, no. 3 (2003): 269-282.

Week 7 2024/4/2 Special Topic: Hong Kong Public Housing (Leung Ka Chi, Researcher at Academic Sinica)

Required Readings:

1. Lee, James. *Housing, home ownership and social change in Hong Kong*. Routledge, 2019.

Week 8 2024/4/9 Hong Kong Family and

Parenting Required Readings

1. Liang, Mario. 2017. *Chinese fatherhood, gender and family: Father mission*. Springer, pp. 58-136.
2. Lui, Lake, and Adam Ka lok Cheung. 2023. "Finishing the "unfinished revolution"?: College educated mothers' resistance to intensive mothering." *Gender, Work & Organization*.

Suggested reading

Lui, Lake and Curran, Sara R., 2020. 'I wish I were a plumber!': Transnational class reconstructions across migrant experiences among Hong Kong's professionals and managers. *Current Sociology*, 68(7), pp.872-890.

Week 9 2024/4/16 Emergence of Hong Kong identity (and a bit on pop culture too)

1. Veg, Sebastian. "The rise of "localism" and civic identity in post-handover Hong Kong: Questioning the Chinese nation-state." *The China Quarterly* 230 (2017): 323-347.
2. Mathews, Gordon. "The Hong Kong protests in anthropological perspective: National identity and what it means." *Critique of Anthropology* 40, no. 2 (2020): 264-269.

Week 10 2024/4/23 Special Topic: Hong Kong Mass Media (Lee Ka Chung/ Choi Wai Man, Previous Apple Daily/Next Journalists)

1. Lee, Francis LF, and Chi-kit Chan. "Legalization of press control under democratic backsliding: The case of post-national security law Hong Kong." *Media, Culture & Society* 45, no. 5 (2023): 916-931.

Week 11 2024/4/30 Hong Kong Civil Society (Chan Kin Man, Sociologist at Academic Sinica & NCCU)

(to be announced)

Week 12 2024/5/7 Resistance: Social Movement and

Beyond Required Reading

1. *On the Edge*, Chapter 7 and 8.

Suggested Reading

Ho, Ming-sho. "How protests evolve: Hong Kong's anti-extradition movement and lessons learned from the umbrella movement." *Mobilization: An International Quarterly* 25, no. SI (2020): 711-728.

Week 13 2024/5/14 Special Topic: Hong Kong and Religion (Frankie Ng, Previous Founder and Senior Pastor at Ekklesia Hong Kong)

(to be announced)

Week 14 2024/5/21 Special Topic: Hong Kong Diaspora (Joseph Chan, Political Scientist at Academic Sinica)

(to be announced)

Week 15 2024/5/28 Preparation for the project

Week 16 2024/6/4 Presentation/Creative Production

Penalties:

1) Late Submission of Assignment

In the interests of equity and fairness, late assignments attract a penalty of -10% per day.

*****No excuses for late homework / no-show in presentation are accepted unless there is a severe crisis (e.g., Emergency room medical treatment, decease of a family member). For those cases, please provide formal and written documentation.

2) Plagiarism

NTU views plagiarism as a serious disciplinary offence. Some plagiarism cases are handled by your teacher or your Department. Other cases are referred to the Student Discipline Committee. Penalties vary according to the circumstances but you might expect one of the following if you plagiarise:

- A lower grade or a fail for the plagiarized work
- A lower classification than you might otherwise have got for your degree
- Suspension of studies for a specified period of time
- Expulsion for a specified or indefinite period