Content of the Course

“Cities have the capability of providing something for everyone, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.”

(Jane Jacobs, The Death and Life of Great American Cities, p.238)

This course aims at theorizing the study of city with cultural studies perspectives. By uncovering the representation and visuality of Hong Kong urbanscape, students are provided with more understanding of development and cultural imaginaries of our urban city. Hong Kong, situated in the age of global capitalism as well as the struggle between the colonial past and the “Great China” developmental future, is a unique metropolis in the world. Therefore the study of city, with the local Hong Kong context as the major example, is a good start to examine the different forces on urban culture. Reflections on the production of urban space and related social and cultural phenomena can then contribute to our analysis of some assumptions long taken for granted.

This course focuses on three areas of study, through which we can explore the different aspects of cultural and sociological study on city and urbanscape. These areas are:

A. Focus and Locus: Theorizing city and space (Lecture A1-A2)
B. Images and Imaginaries: Re-presenting our City (Lecture B1-B5)
C. Destruction and Development: Re-covering our City (Lecture C1-C5)

Each area covers a set of cultural and social discussion. Area A tackles the basic theories and ideas of analyzing city and space. They shed light on some tools in urban study. Hands-on exercise will be arranged just after the study of Area A for spatial observation and discussion. Area B then introduces the understanding of visuality of city. With the concern of visual re-presentation of city and urbanscape in this course, Hong Kong will be treated as reflections from the past to present, and from filmic portrayal to city development in reality, for the purpose of examining its construction.
Fieldtrip will be arranged before the start of Area C and we will visit particular places in the rural Northeast New Territories for follow-up discussion. Area C then explores how Hong Kong is facing the struggle between destruction and development. With these different areas of study, many basic issues of Hong Kong city, for example urbanization, public and private space, community and rural protection, preservation, tourism, locality and globalization, can be reflected and analyzed. Students can be enriched with critical angles in seeing the politics and economy of city growth.

**Learning Outcomes:**

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

1. Explain the basic theories and ideas of reading city with cultural study perspective;
2. Identify the key issues and concerns of examining modern culture and urbanscape;
3. Understand the basic research method of analysing city;
4. Broaden the vision of seeing culture and society.

**Medium of Instruction:** Cantonese (and teaching material are written in English)

**Teaching / learning activities:** Lectures, hands-on exercises, presentation, fieldtrip and discussion

**Assessment:**

1. **Lecture and Tutorial Participation (20%)**
   
   Students are expected to attend at least 80% of all lectures and tutorials respectively; and students should contribute to our discussion, including classes, hands-on exercises and fieldtrip. Those who cannot attend classes should provide proof of evidences to explain the absence. Students who cannot attend 80% of classes have to do extra written work (of not less than 1000 words) on reviewing articles for their particular absent classes; otherwise they may have the risk of failing the course.

2. **Tutorial Presentation and Discussion (20%)**
   
   Students will be divided into groups in tutorial and have to decide a topic for presentation. This is to refresh the topics and issues discussed in lectures. At the end of presentation, the presenters are expected to run a “Question & Answer” section for follow-up discussion. Tutorial will start on the week 4 and run in separated weeks with 5 to 6 tutorials totally.

3. **Mid-term Paper (20%) of 1000-3000 words**  
   Deadline – 4th November 2016
   
   Mid-term paper shall be submitted after Lecture Area B. Students are encouraged to decide their interested topic (which is inspired by Lecture Area A and B) for analytical writing.

4. **Final Paper (40%) of 2000-4000 words**  
   Deadline – 16th December 2016
   
   Final paper shall be submitted after the end of the course. Students have to decide a topic for broadening the analytical framework and examining issues or phenomenon linked to the course.
Schedule of Lecture

**Day, Time and Venue:** Tuesday 1:30 – 3:15pm in ERB 蒙民偉工程學大樓 Rm 404

**Tutorial:** To be confirmed.

### Teaching Calendar

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Lectures

Area A  Focus and Locus: Theorizing city and space

Week 1. Lecture A1:

Why is city the focus of cultural studies?
- Problematizing City

Reading:

Week 2. Lecture A2:

Why is space the locus of city?
- Unproblematizing Space

Reading:

Week 3. Hands-on exercise for the preliminary study of spatial practices

Area B  Images and Imaginaries: Re-presentation our City

Week 4. Lecture B1:

Is the past always memorable?
- Reimagining the urban past

Reading:
Abbas, Ackbar. *Hong Kong: Culture and the Politics of Disappearance*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 1997. (Chapter 1 – Introduction: Culture in a Space of Disappearance; Chapter 2 – The New Hong Kong Cinema and the Defa Disparu; Chapter 4 – Building On Disappearance: Hong Kong Architecture and Colonial Space.)
Shiel, Mark. “Cinema and the City in History and Theory”. In *Cinema and the City:
Week 5. Lecture B2:

Is the present always touchable?
- Representing the present city

Reading:

Week 6. Lecture B3:

Is the future always unimaginable?
- Reconstructing the metropolis

Reading:

Week 7. Lecture B4:

Is Disneyland always like a Wonderland?
- Touring the Simulated City

Reading:

**Week 8. Lecture B5:**

*Is ghetto always like a prison?*

- **Torturing the Real City**

**Reading:**


Mathews, Gordon. *Ghetto at the Center of the World*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2011. (Chapter 1: Place; Chapter 5 – Future.)

Smart, Alan. *The Shek Kip Mei Myth*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2006. (Chapter 2: Colonial Cities, Illegal Spaces; Chapter 3 – Hong Kong in 1950.)

Smart, Josephine. *The Political Economy of Street Hawkers in Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 1989. (Chapter 4: The Spatial Economy of Street Hawking.)

**Week 9. Fieldtrip to the rural Northeast New Territories**

*Ready to submit Midterm Paper? Deadline: 4th November 2016*

**Area C Destruction and Development: Re-covering our City**

**Week 10. Lecture C1:**

*Is the underclass always replaceable?*

- **Encountering development**

**Reading:**


Week 11. **Lecture C2:**

*Is the heritage always vulnerable?*

- **Enlightening history**

**Reading:**


Week 12. **Lecture C3:**

*Is the rural area always consumable?*

- **Endangering country**

**Reading:**


Week 13. **Lecture C4:**

*Is the community always sustainable?*

- **Enlarging city**

Reading:


Tonkiss, Fran. *Space, the City and Social Theory: Social Relations and Urban Forms.* Cambridge: Polity Press, 2005. (Chapter 1 – Community and Solitude: Social Relations in the City.)


Week 14. **Lecture C5:**

*Is the City dying?*

- **Enjoying culture and city life**

Reading:

Castells, Manuel. *The Castells Reader on Cities and Social Theory.* Malden, Mass.: Blackwell, 2002. (Chapter 9 – Culture of City in the Information Age.)


Townsend, Anthony M. *Smart Cities: Big Data, Civic Hackers, and the Quest for a New Utopia.* New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2014. (Chapter 7 – Reinventing City Hall; and Chapter 8 – A Planet of Civic Laboratories.)

Lefebvre, Henri. *The Urban Revolution.* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2003. (Chapter 1 – From City to Urban Society; Chapter 8 – The Urban Illusion.)

*End of the course ➔ Ready to submit Final Paper?*

**Deadline: 16th December 2016**

**References**


Allison, Eric W. and Lauren Peters. *Historical Preservation and the Livable City.* New Jersey: John


Braester, Yomi and James Tweedie, ed. Cinema at the City's Edge: Film and Urban Networks in East Asia. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010.


Louie, Kam, ed. Hong Kong Culture: Word and Image. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010.


Smart, Josephine. The Political Economy of Street Hawkers in Hong Kong. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 1989.


中文參考資料

吳俊雄、馬傑偉及呂大樂編，《香港・文化・政治》。香港：香港大學出版社，2009年。

周綺薇，《推土機前種花》。香港：MCCM Creations，2011年。

侯志仁主編，《反造城市：台灣非典型都市規劃術》。台北：左岸文化事業有限公司，2013年。

建築遊人，《築覺：閱讀香港建築》。香港：三聯，2013年。

洪長泰，《地標：北京的空間政治》。香港：牛津大學出版社，2011年。

張少強，《管治新界——地權，父權與主權》。香港：中華書局，2016年。

陳冠中，《下一個十年：香港的光榮年代？》。香港：牛津大學出版社，2012年。

鄒崇銘，《流動、掠奪與抗爭》。台北：南方家園文化，2015年。

鄒崇銘及姚松炎編，《香港在地農業讀本》。香港：土地教育基金，2015年。

潘國靈，《城市學：香港文化筆記》。香港：Kubrick，2005年。

羅永生，《殖民無間道》。香港：牛津大學出版社，2007年。

羅永生編，《誰的城市：戰後香港的公民文化與政治論述》。香港：牛津大學出版社，1997年。
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. All student assignments in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes should be submitted via VeriGuide with effect from September 2008: [https://veriguide2.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/cuhk/](https://veriguide2.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/cuhk/)

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.

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[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p01.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p01.htm)

Section 2 Proper use of source material

Section 3 Citation styles
[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p03.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p03.htm)

Section 4 Plagiarism and copyright violation

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[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p05.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p05.htm)

Section 6 CUHK disciplinary guidelines and procedures
[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p06.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p06.htm)

Section 7 Guide for teachers and departments

Section 8 Recommended material to be included in course outlines
[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p08.htm](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p08.htm)

Section 9 Electronic submission of assignments via VeriGuide

Section 10 Declaration to be included in assignments