Taking the concept of the creative city as its focal point, this course will examine how urban imaginaries and poetics are produced, disseminated, consumed, and reproduced through various platforms for audiovisual representation including film, photography, art, architecture, cartography, video gaming, and social media. Its final output will be a short video that reimagines dominant discourses and narratives about the metropolis.

The course is interested in how urban imaginaries and poetics, shaped by capitalist modernity, have become complicated by changes to the conditions of neoliberal capitalism, media convergence, and immaterial production. The governments of major metropolitan areas Beijing, Seoul, Taipei, Hong Kong, and Singapore, for instance, have established arts, design, and technology hubs such as Zhongguancun, Dongdaemun Design Plaza, Huashan 1914 Creative Park, Cyberport, and Jurong Innovation District to stimulate creativity and innovation. Whereas Hong Kong has earmarked its renowned movie entertainment industry as a key economic driver, Singapore has reengineered its acclaimed public education system away from quantitative examinations to cultivate knowledge-based skills of flexibility, ingenuity, and entrepreneurship. While Schumpeter defines innovation as the improvement of commercial goods, production processes, and business practices, the metropolis is host to other modes of aesthetic and collective creativity that reimagine its contours and possibilities.

We will ask: How do the dynamisms and tensions of urban flows and rhythms generate nascent identities and collectivities? What social and economic changes prevail in the shift to creative practices and innovative technologies characteristic of the conditions of neoliberal capitalism, media convergence, and immaterial production? How can emergent voices from the burgeoning class of cosmopolitan consumers and transnational migrants offer new urban imaginaries and poetics?

SCHEDULE

Week 1: Envisioning the Creative City (Sep 6)
Required:

Recommended:

**Week 2: Parallel Imaginaries (Sep 13)**

**Required:**

**Recommended:**

Class video-making activity

**Week 3: Innovation Economies & Participatory Cultures (Discussion) (Sep 20)**

**Required:**

**Recommended:**

**Week 4: Innovation Economies & Participatory Cultures (Talk) (Sep 27)**

**Required:**

**Recommended:**

**Guest lecture:**
• Dorothy Wai Sim Lau, Assistant Professor, Hong Kong Baptist University

**Week 5: Border Peripheries & Rights (Oct 4)**

**Required:**

**Recommended:**

**Week 6: Street Observation & Digital Visualization (Class discussion) (Oct 11)**
Required:

Recommended:
- Nadav Hochman and Lev Manovich, “Zooming into an Instagram City: Reading the Local through Social Media,” First Monday 18 (2013)

**Week 6: Street Observation & Digital Visualization (Field trip) (Oct 12)**
Field trip: Hong Kong City Gallery and Tai Kwun Centre for Heritage and Arts

**Week 7: Urban Sexualities (International forum) (Oct 18)**

Required:

Recommended:

**Week 8: Inter-Asian Noir (Film screening) (Oct 25)**
Film screening: Fallen Angels, Wong Kar-wai (1993)

**Submission of individual critical reflection on Blackboard (Oct 25)**

**Week 9: Inter-Asian Noir (Class discussion) (Nov 1)**

Required:

Recommended:

**Week 10: Smart Cities & Virtual Offices (Nov 8)**

Required:

Recommended:

**Submission of summary of final project on Blackboard (Nov 12)**

**Week 11: Consultation on final project (Nov 15)**

**Week 12: Presentation on final project (Nov 22)**
**Week 13: Work period for final project**

**Submission of final project on Blackboard (Dec 8)**

**ASSESSMENT**

**Class participation – 15%**
You are expected to participate actively during lectures, presentations, and discussions by asking salient questions and sharing relevant insights. Please make sure you have thoroughly read the **required** reading so that you can **participate actively** in the discussion. In every class session, different students will be called to **share their thoughts or raise questions**. Your **responses to the presentations** of your classmates will also be assessed.

**Group-led discussion of recommended reading (30 mins.) – 25%**
For Weeks 5, 6, 9, and 10, groups of students will be assigned to **lead the discussion** of the **recommended reading**. For your presentation, your group should 1) present a **summary of your assigned reading’s key terms and arguments concerning urban imaginaries and poetics**. It should 2) explore their links with those of the **required reading** for the week. Your group should 3) explain how these ideas might be **applicable to examples of film and media representations of other Asian cities**. Lastly, it should provide salient questions for further discussion.

This requirement will be marked based on the depth and clarity of your understanding of the assigned readings, which the members of your group will demonstrate during the presentation. The organization and coherence of the presentation will be taken as evidence of your group’s effort and preparedness. Part of your grade will also come from the quality of your discussion questions and examples. **By noon of your presentation date, you should email to me your group slideshow and individual notes for grading.**

**Multimodal critical reflection (2 10-sec. videos & 400-600 words) – 20%**
Working **alone or in pairs**, students will produce a multimodal critical reflection that documents their experience of modernity in the city during the field trip in week 6. The critical reflection will combine digital video with written text. During the field trip, students will take **two 10-second videos of different important sights or spaces that illustrate concepts about urban imaginaries and poetics** discussed in class. The accompanying written text of 400-600 words should provide an **analysis** in narrative or expository form.

This requirement will be marked based on the depth and clarity of the understanding it demonstrates in its explanation of its ideas and their application. The suitability of the chosen concepts for the urban imaginaries and poetics captured in the videos will factor into the grade.

**Video project (4-5 minutes) and group paper (3000-4000 words total) – 35%**
**Group presentation of final project (10 mins.) – 5%**
As your final requirement for the course, you will work in groups to create a short video that applies ideas about urban imaginaries and poetics discussed in class to creatively document social realities in Hong Kong.

The paper should explain how a selection of key ideas from at least three different class sessions is being applied in the conceptualization of this proposal in terms of its themes, objects, and methods. The proposal should be accompanied by a collection of five sample images of sites, materials, and interfaces that would simulate the implementation of the campaign.

This requirement will be graded based on the depth and clarity of the understanding it demonstrates in its explanation of its conceptual ideas and their analytical application. Credit will be given to the suitability and uniqueness of the chosen ideas and images. Lastly, the presentation of the project will be marked for its organization and coherence.

At the start of week 11, each group should submit a summary of the proposed project of 400-500 words in bullet-point format, which concisely describes the synopsis of the video, the realities to be analyzed, and the ideas to be applied. In week 12, your group will give a presentation in class about your final project, which will be your last opportunity to receive feedback before submitting the final version. Your presentation should include sample images from your video’s storyboard.

GRADING RUBRIC

A (Exceptional) – The paper or project greatly exceeds the expectations for this requirement. Fresh insights are presented not only about the chosen example but also about the concepts used. The paper or project displays a comprehensive understanding of the chosen example and the concepts used that goes beyond the scope of the class discussion. The language used to explain the concept and its application is complex yet lucid. The writing is grammatically correct and coherently organized. The chosen example is unique for the topic. The paper or project was submitted by the deadline.

A- (Outstanding) – The paper or project exceeds the expectations for this requirement. Fresh insights are presented about the chosen example. The paper or project displays a comprehensive understanding of either the chosen example or the theory used that goes beyond the scope of the class discussion. The language used to explain the theory and its application is complex yet lucid. The writing is grammatically correct and coherently organized. The chosen example is unique for the topic. The paper or project was submitted by the deadline.

B+ (Very Good) – The paper or project more than meets the expectations for this requirement. Fresh insights are presented about the chosen example. The paper or project displays a comprehensive understanding of the chosen example and the theory used. The language used to explain the theory and its application is lucid. The writing is coherently organized. The chosen example is suitable for the topic. The paper or project was submitted by the deadline.

B (Good) – The paper or project more than meets the expectations for this requirement. The insights presented about the chosen example could have been developed further. The paper or project displays a sufficient understanding of the chosen example and the theory used. The language used to explain the theory and its application is lucid. The writing is moderately coherent. The chosen example is suitable for the topic. The paper or project was submitted by the deadline.
**B- (More than Satisfactory)** – The paper or project meets the expectations for this requirement. The insights presented about the chosen example or theory used lack elaboration or development. The paper or project displays a sufficient understanding of either the chosen example or the theory used. The language used to explain the theory and its application is understandable. The writing is moderately coherent. The chosen example is suitable for the topic. The paper or project may have been submitted late.

**C+ (Satisfactory)** – The paper or project meets the expectations for this requirement. The insights presented about the chosen example or theory used lack elaboration or development. The paper or project displays a basic understanding of the chosen example and the theory used. The language used to explain the theory and its application is understandable. The writing is slightly coherent. The chosen example may not be suitable for the topic. The paper or project may have been submitted late.

**C, C- (Fair)** – The paper or project barely meets the expectations for this requirement. The insights presented about the chosen example or theory used are vaguely elaborated. The paper or project fails to display a sufficient understanding of the chosen example and the theory used. The language used to explain the theory and its application is virtually understandable. The writing is incoherent. The chosen example may not be suitable for the topic. The paper or project may have been submitted late.

**D+, D (Pass)** – The paper or project does not meet the expectations for this requirement. No additional insights are presented about the chosen example or the theory used on top of what was discussed in class. The language used to explain the theory and its application are almost incomprehensible. The writing is incoherent. The chosen example is irrelevant. The paper or project may have been submitted late.

**F (Fail)** – The paper or project does not meet the expectations for this requirement. The language and writing are poor. The chosen example is irrelevant. The theory used was not covered in class. The paper or project may have been submitted long past the deadline.

**ACADEMIC ETHICS**

You are expected to abide by the university’s principles and regulations on academic honesty. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the information on the following webpage: [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/).

Violations such as plagiarized papers or multiple submissions will not be tolerated in any form. These will be subject to disciplinary action. Remember that all words, phrases, or ideas taken from sources other than your own submitted assignment must be properly cited. When in doubt about an assignment with a possible violation, please feel free to consult me.

All written assignments must be accompanied by a VeriGuide receipt, a signed declaration acknowledging your awareness of and subscription to the university’s policies and regulations on academic integrity. Written assignments submitted without a VeriGuide receipt will not be accepted and graded.