

City University of Hong Kong

**Information on a Taught Postgraduate Course
offered by Department of Public Policy
with effect from Semester A in 2014 / 2015**

Part I

Course Title:	Understanding the Modern Metropolis
Course Code:	POL5500
Course Duration:	One Semester
No. of Credit Units:	3
Level:	P5
Medium of Instruction:	English
Prerequisites:	Nil
Precursors:	None
Equivalent Courses:	None
Exclusive Courses:	None

Part II

1. Course Aims:

This course aims to provide the general theoretical backcloth for the programme, to offer a map of the relevant academic literature for prospective urban managers and an understanding of the key drivers of urbanization and urban change in and beyond Asia. It will explore the key contributors to our theoretical and conceptual understanding of the contemporary city, the notable paradigm shifts in urban theory and different disciplinary perspectives on urbanism and urbanization. In doing so, the course will engage with the following topics: what is a city?; urbanization and demography; cities, the global and the local; cities and economic competitiveness; social justice, inequality and the differentiated city; shifting geographies of urbanization and cities in particular regions; urban change and conflict; city futures and sustainability. Particular attention will be given to Asian urbanization and the extent to which our current theoretical understanding of urban processes and urbanization remains inappropriately western-centric.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Identify and critique the key theoretical perspectives on cities	30%
2.	Summarise the key drivers of contemporary urban change	30%
3.	Judge the relevance of different theoretical perspectives to contemporary urban problems and issues	20%
4.	Present their ideas on urbanization systematically and critically, both in verbal and written forms.	20%

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
1, 2	Lectures: To provide both navigational and inspirational input. To excite and interest students in the key theoretical debates on urbanism and urban change and to demonstrate their relevance to the management of cities. Other input such as video or guest international speaker (via electronic link) to deepen understanding of academic literature	2 hours per week
1, 2, 3, 4	Focused presentation and discussion on key issues / reading to deepen understanding of academic literature and to enhance communication skills.	2 hours every other week
1, 2, 3, 4	Essay Writing: to develop and refine ability in integrating information, analytical and communication skills	
1, 2, 3	Readings: close reading of one key article or book chapter per week to broaden understanding of the academic and policy debates-with supplementary reading as appropriate.	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
1, 2, 3, 4	Class presentation / discussant	25%	
1, 2, 3	Course essay (3000 words)	75%	

5. **Grading of Student Achievement:** Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees. *All marks and grades are subject to approval by the Assessment Panel.*

6.

Letter Grade	Grading criteria in relation to CILOs
A+ A A-	Demonstrating comprehensive and critical understanding of urban theory and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges
B+ B B-	Demonstrating good understanding of urban theory and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges
C+ C C-	Demonstrating an adequate understanding of urban theory and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges
D	Partial but inadequate understanding of course content and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges
F	Little evidence of understanding of course content or its relevance to urban management issues and challenges

Part III

Keyword Syllabus

Urban theory; Marx; Weber; Chicago School; structuralism; demography; urban-rural migration; segregation; polarisation; stratification; global cities; deindustrialisation; postindustrialism; postmodernism; network society; managerialism

Key Texts

- Bridge, G., & Watson, S. (Eds.). (2010). *The Blackwell city reader*. John Wiley.
- Bridge, G., & Watson, S. (Eds.). (2011). *The new Blackwell companion to the city*. John Wiley.
- City (2009) Special Issue: Cities for People, not for Profit, 13,2-3
- Dear, M., & Dishman, J. D. (Eds.). (2001). *From Chicago to LA: Making sense of urban theory*. Sage.
- Graham, S. (2011). *Cities under siege: The new military urbanism*. Verso Books.
- Hannigan, J. (2013). *Fantasy city: Pleasure and profit in the postmodern metropolis*. Routledge.
- Nature (2010) Science and the City)Special Issue
- Ma, L.J.C. & F. Wu (2013) (Eds.) *Restructuring the Chinese City: Changing Society, Economy and Space*, Oxford: Routledge,
- Neuwirth, R. (2005). *Shadow cities: a billion squatters, a new urban world* (pp. 309-316). New York: Routledge.
- Parker, S. (2003). *Urban theory and the urban experience: encountering the city*. Routledge.
- Roy, A. (2009). The 21st-century metropolis: new geographies of theory. *Regional Studies*, 43(6), 819-830.
- Sassen, S. (2000). New frontiers facing urban sociology at the Millennium. *The British journal of sociology*, 51(1), 143-159.
- Wu, Weiping (2013) *The Chinese City*, London:Routledge

Key Journals

- International Journal of Urban and Regional Research
- Urban Studies
- Urban Geography
- Environment and Planning
- City