

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:	Urban Life and Culture
Course Code:	POL5503
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:

The course aims to enable students to: (1) develop understanding of relationships between cultures, peoples, urban development and landscapes; (2) demonstrate the evolution and changes of urban landscape, and understand the symbolic meanings of places and its effects on urban living. The course will cover a wide range of typologies of urban landscape, from faraway vernacular settlements and religious space, to the emerging avant-garde art and creative clusters. Major issues of urban morphological transformation will be examined from a variety of perspectives such history, identities, religion and aesthetics, culture/creativity, politics, migration/mobility, and interventions.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Summarise systematic knowledge of the urban history, urban community, and cultural landscapes of Asian cities	20
2.	Compare the major cultural and social transformation of Asian cities, explain its symbolic meanings and effects on urban living	20
3.	Critique the research on the evolution and changes of urban landscape	30
4.	Communicate their ideas clearly, systematically and critically, both in verbal and written forms.	30

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: Identify key issues and outline major institutional framework in historical, cultural and social change; introduce major analytic frameworks in analysing social and cultural issues	2 hours per week
1, 2, 3,	Field trip: organized visit to typical field sites that represent key issues in cultural landscape transformation	
1, 2, 3, 4	Student Presentations: develop students' capacity in identifying and critically evaluate important issues on the social and cultural landscape of Asian cities	2 hours every other week
1, 2, 3, 4	Discussion: enhances debates and the assessment of competing theories; develops students' communication skills.	
1, 2, 3, 4	Essay Writing: advances students' ability in integrating information, develops analytic and communication skills	
1, 2, 3	Readings: three to four articles or book chapters per week to broaden their understanding of the literature, theories and policies.	

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	Term paper (2500-3000 words)	60%	
1, 2, 3	Final Examination (2 hours)	40%	

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.*

Letter Grade	Grading criteria in relation to CILOs
A+ A A-	Demonstrating comprehensive, in-depth understanding of social and cultural issues in Asian cities and able to offer a clear and critical analysis of such issues and related policies
B+ B B-	Demonstrating good understanding of social and cultural issues in Asian cities and able to offer a clear and critical analysis of such issues and related policies
C+ C C-	Demonstrating an adequate understanding of social and cultural issues in Asian cities and able to offer a clear and critical analysis of such issues and related policies
D	Offer partial but inadequate understanding of urban and social issues in China and able to offer a clear and critical analysis of such issues and related policies
F	Fail to offer partial but inadequate understanding of urban and social issues in China and able to offer a clear and critical analysis of such issues and related policies

Part III

Keyword Syllabus

Cultural and historical landscape (heritage, conservation), community life and social formation (gender, migration, politics, the neighbourhood and identity), consumerism and commodification of space (tourism, place making, spectacles, mega-events), cultural/creative cities (city branding, production of culture)

Recommended Reading

- Abbas, A. (1997). (Ed.), *Hong Kong: Culture and the Politics of Disappearance*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Adler S. and Brenner J. (2005) "Gender and space: lesbians and Gay men in the city" in Lin, J. and Mele, c. (eds) *The urban sociology reader*. Abingdon: Routledge, pp200-207.
- Appadurai, Arjun. (1990). Disjuncture and difference in the global cultural economy. *Theory, Culture and Society*, 7, 295-310.
- AlSaiyad, Nezar. (2001). *Consuming tradition, manufacturing heritage: global norms and urban forms in the age of tourism*. London; New York: Routledge.
- Bishop R., Phillips J and Yeo W. (2004) *Beyond description: Singapore space historicity*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. (1984). *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgment of Taste*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
- Broudehoux, Anne-Marie. (2007). Spectacular Beijing: The Conspicuous construction of an Olympic metropolis *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 29(4), 383-399.
- Cosgrove D. (1984) *Social formation and symbolic landscape*. London: Croom Helm, Chapter 1, pp13-38.
- Evans, Graeme. (2005). Measure for measure: Evaluating the evidence of culture's contribution to regeneration. *Urban Studies*, 42(5/6), 959-983.
- Dunn K. and Winchester H. (1999) "Inventions of gender and place in Films" in Anderson K. and Gale F. (eds) *Cultural geographies*. Longman, pp173-195.
- Kong, Lily, & Yeoh, Brenda S A. (1996). Social construction of nature in urban Singapore. *Southeast Asian Studies*, 34(2), 402-423.
- Law L. (2003) *Transnational cyberpublics: new political spaces for labour migrants in Asia*. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 26:234-252.
- Li L., Dray-Novoy A. and Kong H. (2007) *Beijing: from imperial capital to Olympic City*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan
- Lin, C.-Y., & Hsing, W.-C. (2009). Culture-led Urban Regeneration and Community Mobilisation: The Case of the Taipei Bao-an Temple Area, Taiwan. *Urban Studies*, 46(7), 317-1342.
- Lozano E. (1990) *Community design and the culture of cities*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 11, pp241-259.
- Monk J. (1999) "Gender in the landscape: expressions of power and meaning" in Anderson K. and Gale F. (eds) *Cultural geographies*. Longman, pp153-172.
- Moore N. and Whelan Y. (2007) (ed.) *Heritage, Memory and the Politics of Identity: new perspectives on the Cultural Landscape*. Aldershot: Ashgate.
- Oakes, Timothy S., & Price, Patricia L. (Eds.). (2008). *The Cultural Geography Reader*. New York, Oxford: Routledge.
- O'Connor, J., & Gu, X. (2012). Shanghai Modern: The Future in Microcosm? *Culture Unbound: Journal of Current Cultural Research*, 4.
- Ong, Aihwa. (1999). *Flexible citizenship: The cultural logics of transnationality*. Durham & London: Duke University Press.
- Zhang L. and Ong A. (2008) *Privatizing China: socialism from afar*. Ithaca : Cornell University Press.
- Urry, John. (1995). *Consuming places*. London: Routledge.