

**City University of Hong Kong**  
**Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Public Policy**  
**with effect from Semester B 2016/2017**

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**Part I Course Overview**

<b>Course Title:</b>	<u>Understanding the Modern Metropolis</u>
<b>Course Code:</b>	<u>POL5500</u>
<b>Course Duration:</b>	<u>One semester</u>
<b>Credit Units:</b>	<u>3</u>
<b>Level:</b>	<u>P5</u>
<b>Medium of Instruction:</b>	<u>English</u>
<b>Medium of Assessment:</b>	<u>English</u>
<b>Prerequisites:</b> <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	<u>Nil</u>
<b>Precursors:</b> <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	<u>None</u>
<b>Equivalent Courses:</b> <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	<u>None</u>
<b>Exclusive Courses:</b> <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	<u>None</u>

## Part II Course Details

### 1. Abstract

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)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
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%		✓	
		100%			

A1: *Attitude*

*Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.*

A2: *Ability*

*Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.*

A3: *Accomplishments*

*Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.*

### 3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.				Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	
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	x	x			2 hours per week
Presentation and discussion	Focused presentation and discussion on key issues / reading to deepen understanding of academic literature and to enhance communication skills.	x	x	x	x	2 hours every other week
Essay Writing	to develop and refine ability in integrating information, analytical and communication skills	x	x	x	x	
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.	x	x	x		

### 4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.				Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4		
Continuous Assessment: 100%						
Class presentation / discussant	x	x	x	x	25%	
Course essay (3000 words)	x	x	x		75%	
					100%	

## 5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Adequate (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
Class presentation / discussant		Demonstrating comprehensive and critical understanding of urban theory and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges	Demonstrating good understanding of urban theory and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges	Demonstrating an adequate understanding of urban theory and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges	Partial but inadequate understanding of course content and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges	Little evidence of understanding of course content or its relevance to urban management issues and challenges
Course essay		Demonstrating comprehensive and critical understanding of urban theory and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges	Demonstrating good understanding of urban theory and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges	Demonstrating an adequate understanding of urban theory and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges	Partial but inadequate understanding of course content and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges	Little evidence of understanding of course content or its relevance to urban management issues and challenges

## Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

### 1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

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

### 2. Reading List

#### 2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

#### Key Texts

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

#### 2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

#### Key Journals

1. International Journal of Urban and Regional Research
2. Urban Studies
3. Urban Geography
4. Environment and Planning
5. City