

PIA2032: HONG KONG: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Hong Kong: Continuity and Change

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

2032

Academic Unit

Public and International Affairs (PIA)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

AIS2032 Hong Kong: Continuity and Change

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to provide students with a systematic understanding of Hong Kong's socio-economic and political changes from the colonial to post-colonial periods. It will identify major factors that shape Hong Kong's social and cultural changes. Two imminent issues of concern after 1997 include its relationships with China and whether 'one country two system' will become merely rhetorical. The course will help students think critically about these issues and make deep analysis of Hong Kong's strategic position in relation to China and Asia as a whole. This course will conduct interactive lectures which will allow students to explore issues in discussions and other activities. Students will conduct individual or group projects that help them analyse and debate social and political changes in a structured way. Moreover, students will engage in individual discovery concerning current issues in Hong Kong.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify major socio-economic and political developments in Hong Kong from the colonial to the post-colonial periods.	x	x	
2	Assess internal and external factors shaping Hong Kong's social structure, class dynamics, and political system	x	x	
3	Analyse important political, economic, social, environmental, and cultural issues in Hong Kong.	x	x	
4	Examine the current situation in Hong Kong in comparative perspective	x	x	x
5	Demonstrate the ability to think critically and creatively	x	x	x

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 real-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.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures, seminars, discussions	-	1, 2, 3
2	Midterm and Final Quiz	Students will have in-class quizzes that cover the material of the course	3, 4, 5

3	Individual essay writing and individual discovery	Students will write a short individual essay/ fact sheets during the semester, and/ or an individual final paper/ “discovery in Hong Kong” project	3, 4, 5	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Attendance and Participation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	10	Attendance is not graded, but per university policy, missing 3 lectures or more will result in an F. Participation is recorded and is worth 10% of your grade.	No
2	Mid-term Quiz	1, 2, 4	20	The midterm will be held in Week 6. It will cover all the material discussed in all previous sessions (i.e. the “historical” component of the class),	No
3	Final Quiz	1, 2, 4	30	The final quiz will be held in Week 13, and it will be about the latter half of the course.	No

4	Discovery in Hong Kong	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	40	Students will document lesser known issues and explain their significance. Suggested format: a written “living history” assignment (based on the interview of an older relative + existing literature) or a work of “creative historical writing” (where description of past events through the perspective of a contemporary is justified, through numerous footnotes, by the existing academic literature and other primary and secondary sources)	No
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Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Attendance and Participation

Criterion

Quality of class participation.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Actively participates in discussions.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Participates in most discussions.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Limited participation in discussions.

Marginal (D)

Little participation in discussions.

Failure (F)

No participation.

Assessment Task

2. Mid-term Quiz

Criterion

Ability to make use of knowledge and demonstrate understanding of the topics of the class

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent ability to make use of knowledge and demonstrate understanding of the topics of the class

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good ability to make use of knowledge and demonstrate understanding of the topics of the class

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate ability to make use of knowledge and demonstrate understanding of the topics of the class

Marginal (D)

Minimum ability to make use of knowledge and demonstrate understanding of the topics of the class

Failure (F)

Inadequate ability to make use of knowledge and demonstrate understanding of the topics of the class

Assessment Task

3. Final Quiz

Criterion

Ability to make use of knowledge and demonstrate understanding of the topics of the class

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent ability to make use of knowledge and demonstrate understanding of the topics of the class

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good ability to make use of knowledge and demonstrate understanding of the topics of the class

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate ability to make use of knowledge and demonstrate understanding of the topics of the class

Marginal (D)

Minimum ability to make use of knowledge and demonstrate understanding of the topics of the class

Failure (F)

Inadequate ability to make use of knowledge and demonstrate understanding of the topics of the class

Assessment Task

4. Discovery in Hong Kong

Criterion

Need to be able to discover, critically reflect upon, and write on a topic of their own choice in an innovative format

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent skills in discovering, critically reflection skills, writing skills, as well as include innovative ideas

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good skills in discovering, critically reflection skills, writing skills, as well as include innovative ideas

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate skills in discovering, critically reflection skills, writing skills, as well as include innovative ideas

Marginal (D)

Minimum skills in discovering, critically reflection skills, writing skills, as well as include innovative ideas

Failure (F)

Inadequate skills to achieve discovering, critically reflection skills, writing skills, as well as include innovative ideas

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Colonial history; Post-1997 governance; political developments; economic restructuring; social changes; civil society; social movements, one-country, two-systems; environmental politics; global city, regional hub

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Carroll, John. 2007. <i>A Concise History of Hong Kong</i> , Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield
2	Chan, Elaine Y.M. 2007. "Chap. 8: Civil Society", in: Lam et. al. (eds.) <i>Contemporary Hong Kong Politics, Governance in the Post-1997 Era</i> , Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, p. 179-197
3	Chan, Joseph M. & Lee, Francis L. F. 2007. "Chap. 9: Mass Media and Public Opinion", in: Lam et. al. (eds.) <i>Contemporary Hong Kong Politics, Governance in the Post-1997 Era</i> , Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, pp. 155-179
4	Cheng, Joseph S.Y. 2013. "Democratization in Hong Kong: A Theoretical Exception", in: Fung, Edmund S. K. (ed.) <i>Democracy in Eastern Asia: Issues, Problems and Challenges in a Region of Diversity</i> , Abingdon: Routledge, pp. 224-245
5	Chu, Yin-Wah. 2013. "Hong Kong: From Laissez Faire to Experiments in Developmental Support", in: Low, Linda (ed.) <i>Developmental States: Relevancy, Redundancy or Reconfiguration?</i> Nova Science Publishers, pp. 147-159
6	Fong, Brian C. H. 2017. "One Country, Two Nationalisms: Center-Periphery Relations between Mainland China and Hong Kong, 1997-2016", <i>Modern China</i> , Vol. 43(5), pp. 523-556
7	Fung, Anthony Y. H. 2007. "Political Economy of Hong Kong Media: Producing a Hegemonic Voice", <i>Asian Journal of Communication</i> , Vol. 17, No. 2, June, pp. 159-171
8	Li, Pang-kwong. 2012. "Ch. 2: The Executive", in: Lam Wei-man et. al. (eds.) <i>Contemporary Hong Kong Government and Politics</i> , 2nd ed., Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, pp. 27-44.
9	Lui, Percy Luen-tim. 2012. "Ch. 3: The Legislature", in: Lam Wei-man et. al. (eds.), <i>Contemporary Hong Kong Government and Politics</i> , 2nd ed., Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, pp. 45-66
10	Ma, Ngok (2011) "Hong Kong's Democrats Divide", <i>Journal of Democracy</i> , Vol. 22, No. 1, January
11	Ortmann, Stephan (2016) "Political Development in Hong Kong: The Failure of Democratization", <i>Asian International Studies Review</i> , 17:2, pp. 199-219
12	The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
13	Tsang, Steve. 2019. <i>A Modern History of Hong Kong</i> , London: Bloomsbury
14	Yuen, Samson & Cheng, Edmund W. 2017. "Neither Repression Nor Concessions? A Regime's Attrition against Mass Protests", <i>Political Studies</i> , Vol. 65(3), pp. 611-630

15	Yuen, Samson & Cheng, Edmund W. 2018. "Rethinking Contentious Politics in Hong Kong: Change and Continuity" , Hong Kong Studies, Vol. 1, No. 1
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Additional Readings

	Title
1	Chan, Joseph M. and Francis F.L. Lee (eds.). 2008. Media and Politics in Post-Handover Hong Kong. Oxon and New York: Routledge.
2	Cheng, Joseph Y.S. (eds). 2014. New Trends of Political Participation in Hong Kong. Hong Kong: City University of Hong Kong Press.
3	Cheng, Joseph Y.S. (eds). 2007. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Its First Decade. Hong Kong: City University of Hong Kong Press.
4	Chiu, Stephen Wing Kai & Lui, Tai Lok (eds). 2000. The Dynamics of Social Movement in Hong Kong. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
5	Chiu, Wing-kai Stephen and Siu-lun Wong (eds.). 2012. Repositioning the Hong Kong Government: Social Foundations and Political Challenges. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Univeristy Press.
6	Harris, Paul G. 2012. Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development in China: Hong Kong in Global Context. Bristol: The Polity Press.
7	Lam Wai-Man. 2004. Understanding the Political Culture of Hong Kong: The Paradox of Activism and Depoliticization. Armonk: M.E. Sharpe.
8	Lam, Wai-man, Percy Luen-tim Lui, and Wilson Wong (eds.). 2012. Contemporary Hong Kong Government and Politics. 2nd ed. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
9	Lam, Wai-man, Percy Luen-tim Lui, Wilson Wong and Ian Holliday (eds.). 2007. Contemporary Hong Kong Politics, Governance in the Post-1997 Era. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
10	Law, Wing Sang. 2009. Collaborative Colonial Power, the Making of the Hong Kong Chinese. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
11	Lee, Francis. 2019a. "Solidarity in the Anti-Extradition Bill Movement in Hong Kong" , Critical Asian Studies
12	Lee, Francis L.F., Yuen S., Tang G. & Cheng E. 2019b. "Hong Kong' s Summer of Uprising" , China Review, Vol. 19, No. 4 (November), pp. 1-32
13	Ma, Ngok. 2007. Political Development in Hong Kong, State, Political Society, and Civil Society. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
14	Ma, Ngok. 2008. "Civil Society and Democratization in Hong Kong: Paradox and Duality" , Taiwan Journal of Democracy, Vol. 4, No. 2, pp. 155-175
15	Ming Sing (ed.). 2009. Politics and Government in Hong Kong: Crisis Under Chinese Sovereignty. Oxon and New York: Routledge.
16	Ming Sing. 2004. Hong Kong's Torturous Democratization: A Comparative Analysis. London and New York: RoutledgeCurzon.
17	Ngo, Tak-Wing. 1999. "Colonialism in Hong Kong Revisited" , in: Tak-Wing Ngo (ed.). Hong Kong's History: State and Society Under Colonial Rule, London and New York: Routledge, pp. 1-12.
18	O' Connor, Paul. 2018. "Ethnic Minorities and Ethnicity in Hong Kong" , Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Hong Kong, London: Routledge, pp. 259-274
19	Ortmann, Stephan. 2010a. Politics and Change in Singapore and Hong Kong: Containing Contention. Oxon: Routledge.
20	Ortmann, Stephan. 2010b. "Depoliticization and the Rise of Social Protest in Hong Kong during the 1970s" , in: Ortmann. Stephan, Politics and Change in Singapore and Hong Kong, Abingdon and New York: Routledge, pp. 34-52
21	Poon, Kit. 2008. The Political Future of Hong Kong, Democracy within Communist China. Oxon: Routledge.
22	Scott, Ian. 2010. The Public Sector in Hong Kong. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

23	So, Alvin Y. 1990. <i>Social Change and Development, Modernization, Dependency, and World-system Theories</i> . Newbury Park, CA: Sage.
24	Tsang, Steve. 2004. <i>A Modern History of Hong Kong</i> . Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
25	Wong, Yiu-chung (ed.). 2004. "One Country, Two System" in Crisis, Hong Kong's Transformation since the Handover. Lanham, MA: Lexington Books.
26	Welsh, Frank. 1994. <i>A History of Hong Kong</i> , London: HarperCollins
27	Yeung, Yue-man (eds). 2007. <i>The First Decade the Hong Kong SAR in Retrospective and Introspective Perspectives</i> . Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press.
28	Plus relevant journal articles to be assigned by the lecturer.