Course Title: Hong Kong and Chinese Societies in Transition

Course Code: C C C U 4 0 0 5

Aims and Objective

This course introduces students to contemporary developments of three transitional Chinese societies — China mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Taking reference from academic literatures in China Studies, sociology, economic history, political science, journalism, cultural studies and film studies, this course provides students with an interdisciplinary outlook on and comprehensive knowledge about the development of the three Chinese societies since the Second World War.

At the end of the course, students will be able to identify the distinct social, economic and political systems operating in China mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong. They are also expected to be familiar with the different cultural nuances of the three Chinese societies.

Intended Learning Outcomes of the Course

On completion of the course, students should be able to

ILO 1 define market style economy, centrally planned economy and communism and assess their impacts on the development of China mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong societies;
ILO 2 restate the major events and turning points in the socio-political history of China mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong in the Post-WWII era;
ILO 3 analyze the social, cultural and political forces shaping the identity development of people living in China mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong;
ILO 4 relate political priorities of the government concerned to changes in the education systems;
ILO 5 analyze how developments in the film industries of China mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong correspond to social and political changes.

Syllabus

Lecture 1 Course Introduction; Introducing China, Hong Kong and Taiwan

In this introductory lecture, students will get to think about how the three regions, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, are commonly perceived, and to acknowledge the rapid social, political transformations of the regions in the past few decades.

Lecture 2 Changing Lifestyle in China: From Socialism to Consumerism

‘The Chinese people have stood up!’ declared Chairman Mao Zedong as he announced the establishment of the People’s Republic of China on 1 Oct 1949. How has this country, laying its foundation in Marxism, developed afterwards? This lecture charts through the social and political development of China from 1949 to present.
Lecture 3  Cultural Formation and Identity Construction in Hong Kong (I): From a British Colony to the HKSAR

The identity construction of HongKongers is grounded in the state of post-coloniality. The colonial state intervened to ‘reinvent’ culture during Hong Kong’s rapid industrialisation. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Hong Kong transformed from an industrial economy into a services economy. In this lecture, we will argue that this transformation was crucial to the emergence of a distinctive Hong Kong culture and an indigenous identity.

Lecture 4  Socio-Political Development and Identity Dilemma in Taiwan: From 1895 to the Present

This lecture will focus on Taiwan’s social-political development from the Japanese colonial occupation to the present days, and on the corresponding changes in the cultural identities of Taiwanese. It charts the birth and development of Taiwanese nationalism in the 20th century. In moving from one key historical period to another, we will trace the cultural and political origins, as well as the changing faces of nationalistic discourses in Taiwan in the purpose of understanding both the cultural politics of Taiwan in addition to the development of a nation-state in general.

Lecture 5  Media Landscape in China: Censorship, Commercialisation and Liberalisation

This lecture will initially discuss the historical roots and development of Chinese media from the Mao’s era to the present. This will be followed by a critical analysis how the post-1978 liberalisation policies have reshaped the Chinese media landscape within the framework of continued party censorship. Apart from the analysis of traditional media, new media such as internet will be further used as a specific example to illustrate how the investigative journalism has appeared in such an authoritarian society and with what characteristics.

Lecture 6  Cultural Formation and Identity Construction in Hong Kong (II): Film Culture in Hong Kong

After WWII, Hong Kong has had distinctive and yet interrelated political development. This lecture will examine how this development has been changing and represented in the changing film culture of Hong Kong, focusing in the conflicting ideologies of localism and transnationalism found in recent films.

Lecture 7  Generational Changes of Chinese People in China and Hong Kong

In this lecture, we will critically discuss and respond to current debates on Hong Kong’s conflicting social and cultural identities: how do we define different generations of Hong Kong people? Is the development of the ‘4th Generation’ of Hong Kong people impaired by their baby-boomer parents (as argued by Prof. Lui Tai-lok)? We will further make comparison between the ‘4th Generation’ Hong Kong youth with those ‘Little Emperors’ in China, which are considered a consequence of the ‘One-child Policy’.

Lecture 8  Transformation of Idol Culture in China

The lecture will discuss the transformation of idol culture in China, in order to find out how political considerations and social values, as well as the relationships between the Party and Chinese people, have drastically changed since 1950s.
Lecture 9  Tourism, Cultural Industry and Identity in Greater China Region: Opportunities and Challenges

This final lecture focuses on the population flows among the three Chinese societies in the context of global tourism. After the opening-up of China in the late 1970s, not only the “three links” (i.e. direct post, transportation and trade) between Mainland China and Taiwan was opened, travelling between Mainland China and Hong Kong has also become convenient, especially after Hong Kong’s handover in 1997. The boom of tourism among the three societies has brought new commercial opportunities but it has also resulted in new cultural tensions and impacts. In this lecture, we will explore through relevant case studies, e.g. the Beijing Olympics and Hong Kong’s protests “the Individual Visit Scheme”, the convergence and/or divergence among the three Chinese societies.

Assessment

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<th>Type of Assessment (Weighting)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Continuous Assessment (60%)</td>
<td>Participation (10%)</td>
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<td>Group Presentation (30%)</td>
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<td>Written Report (20%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examination (40%)</td>
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Pre-requisite(s)
 Nil

Required and Recommended Reading

References

04.07.2016