

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	:	Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Sociology and Community Studies and Bachelor of Education (Honours) (Geography); all undergraduate programmes
Programme QF Level	:	5
Course Title	:	Hong Kong, China in the Greater Bay Area: Opportunities and Challenges
Course Code	:	SSC4305
Department	:	Social Sciences and Policy Studies
Credit Points	:	3
Contact Hours	:	39
Pre-requisite(s)	:	Nil
Medium of Instruction	:	English
Course Level	:	4

Part II

The University's Graduate Attributes and seven Generic Intended Learning Outcomes (GILOs) represent the attributes of ideal EdUHK graduates and their expected qualities respectively. Learning outcomes work coherently at the University (GILOs), programme (Programme Intended Learning Outcomes) and course (Course Intended Learning Outcomes) levels to achieve the goal of nurturing students with important graduate attributes.

In gist, the Graduate Attributes for Sub-degree, Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate, Professional Doctorate and Research Postgraduate students consist of the following three domains (i.e. in short "PEER & I"):

- Professional Excellence;
- Ethical Responsibility; &
- Innovation.

The descriptors under these three domains are different for the three groups of students in order to reflect the respective level of Graduate Attributes.

The seven GILOs are:

1. Problem Solving Skills
2. Critical Thinking Skills
3. Creative Thinking Skills
- 4a. Oral Communication Skills
- 4b. Written Communication Skills
5. Social Interaction Skills
6. Ethical Decision Making
7. Global Perspectives

1. Course Synopsis

This course aims to analyze the transformation of Hong Kong, China from a trading port under British rule into a global financial, business and transportation hub in the 21st century and examine how Hong Kong, China can position itself to seize the opportunities and cope with the challenges as part of the Greater Bay Area (GBA). Multidisciplinary perspectives from political science, sociology and urban studies will be employed to understand the changing political and socio-economic dynamics of the different communities at the local, regional and national levels. Special focus will be placed on the political, social and economic forces that have shaped the development of the entire south China region and the multi-faceted interactions between Hong Kong, China and other cities in the Pearl River Delta, which is now designated as the GBA, since China embarked on reform and open door policy in late 1978. This course is organized into three parts. Part I offers an historical and conceptual introduction to the study of the south China region. This begins with an overview of the historical evolution of Hong Kong, China from the colonial era to its establishment as a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the changing social, economic and political links between Hong Kong, China and Guangdong province, and the developmental experience of this region since the late 1970s. Theoretical approaches in the study of globalization and regional development, such as global cities, global city-regions and regional governance, and their relevance for studying south China would also be critically examined. Part II focuses on several key issues in regional development and cooperation in the GBA, including intergovernmental relations, economic and technological development, demographic flows and boundary management, transportation and infrastructural development, as well as environmental protection and management. Part III explores the challenges and opportunities facing Hong Kong, China, other key cities in the GBA such as Shenzhen and Guangzhou, and other emerging regions in the Chinese Mainland, as well as their prospect in light of China's rise in the 21st century.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- CILO₁ Understand the competing theoretical perspectives in the social sciences that can be employed to analyze the transformation of contemporary Hong Kong, China community and other key cities such as Guangzhou and Shenzhen in the Greater Bay Area (GBA);
- CILO₂ Critically examine the changing relations between Hong Kong, China and other cities in the GBA, the other regions of Chinese Mainland and the world;
- CILO₃ Understand the multi-faceted challenges facing Hong Kong, China and other GBA cities as the region strives to become an innovation and technology hub and a global city cluster;
- CILO₄ Explore the coping strategies that Hong Kong, China can consider and the challenges it faces in its positioning as China's international financial, transportation and trade centre;
- CILO₅ Develop analytical, research and communication skills in social science research.

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
<p>The socio-economic and political transformation of Hong Kong, China in the south China region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of Hong Kong in the context of south China (early colonial era - late 1940s) • The transformation of Hong Kong, China and Guangdong province after the establishment of the PRC (1949 -1978) • Hong Kong, China as a key actor in the reform and opening up of Chinese Mainland and the development of Guangdong province into an economic powerhouse (1978-1997) • Growing integration of Hong Kong, China into the GBA (since 1997 – the present) 	<i>CILOs_{1,2,3,4,5}</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture • Class discussion • Research
<p>Interactions between Hong Kong, China and other cities in the GBA and its changing roles in the national economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional governance and Intergovernmental relations • Economic and technological development • Demographic flows and boundary management • Urban development and spatial planning • Transportation and infrastructural development • Environmental protection and management 	<i>CILOs_{1,2,3,4,5}</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture • Class discussion • Research
<p>Hong Kong, China's positioning under the GBA planning: opportunities and challenges facing Hong Kong, China, other key cities in the GBA and other emerging regions in China</p>	<i>CILOs_{2,3,4,5}</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture • Class discussion • Research

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
(a) Class participation and presentation Discussion of class materials in class and tutorials = 20%; group presentation = 10%.	30%	CILOs _{1,2,3,4,5}
(b) Test Essay test examining understanding of class readings and lectures.	20%	CILOs _{1,2,3,4,5}
(c) Group research paper Students have to form into groups and write a 4,500-word research paper on a policy issue or sector and examine the key challenges and opportunities facing Hong Kong, China in this area during the integration into the GBA.	50%	CILOs _{1,2,3,4,5}

5. Use of Generative AI in Course Assessments

Please select one option only that applies to this course:

☐ **Not Permitted:** In this course, the use of generative AI tools is not allowed for any assessment tasks.

☒ **Permitted:** In this course, generative AI tools may be used in some or all assessment tasks. Instructors will provide specific instructions, including any restrictions or additional requirements (e.g., proper acknowledgment, reflective reports), during the first lesson and in relevant assessment briefs.

6. Required Text(s)

Nil

7. Recommended Readings

Bush, Richard C. 2016. *Hong Kong in the Shadow of China: Living with the Leviathan*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.

Carroll, John M. 2007. *A Concise History of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University

Chan, Ming K. & Alvin Y. So, eds. 2002. *Crisis and Transformation in China's Hong Kong*. London: Routledge.

Chan, Ming K. & Gerard A. Postiglione, eds. 1996. *The Hong Kong Reader: Passage to Chinese Sovereignty*. London: Routledge.

Chan, Ming K. ed. 2008. *China's Hong Kong Transformed—Retrospect and Prospects beyond the First Decade*. Hong Kong: City University Press of Hong Kong.

- Chen, Albert H.Y. 2021. *The Changing Legal Orders in Hong Kong and Mainland China: Essays on "One Country, Two Systems"*. Hong Kong: City University of Hong Kong Press.
- Cheng, Joseph Y. S., eds. 2007. *The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Its First Decade*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Chiu, Stephen Wing-kai, & Siu-lun Wong, eds. 2012. *Repositioning the Hong Kong Government: Social Foundations and Political Challenges*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Chiu, Stephen Wing-Kai., Kong Chong Ho, and Tai-Lok Lui. 1997. *City-states in the Global Economy: Industrial Restructuring in Hong Kong and Singapore*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- Chiu, Stephen Wing-Kai., Kong Chong Ho, & Tai-Lok Lui. 2009. *Hong Kong: Becoming a Chinese Global City*. London: Routledge.
- Fong, Brian C.H. & Tai-Lok Lui, eds. 2018. *Hong Kong 20 Years after the Handover: Emerging Social and Institutional Fractures after 1997*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Kwok, R. Yin-Wang & Alvin Y. So, eds. 1995. *The Hong Kong-Guangdong link: Partnership in flux*. Armonk N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe.
- Lo, Shiu-Hing Sonny. 2008. *The Dynamics of Beijing-Hong Kong Relations: A Model for Taiwan?* Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Lui, Tai-Lok, Stephen W.K. Chiu & Ray Yep, eds. 2018. *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Hong Kong*. London: Routledge.
- Ma, Ngok. 2007. *Political Development in Hong Kong: State, Political Society and Civil Society*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Postiglione, Gerard A. & James Tuck-Hong Tang, eds. 1997. *Hong Kong's Reunion with China: The Global Dimensions*. London: Routledge.
- Sung, Yunwing. 2005. *The Emergence of Greater China: The Economic Integration of Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong*. London: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Tsang, Steve Yui-Sang. 2004. *A Modern History of Hong Kong*. London: I.B. Tauris.
- Yeh, Anthony. G. et al., eds. 2006. *Developing A Competitive Pearl River Delta in South China under One Country-Two Systems*. H.K.: Hong Kong University Press.
- Yeung, Yue-man., & David K. Y. Chu, eds. 1998. *Guangdong: Survey of a Province Undergoing Rapid Change*, 2nd ed. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press.

8. Related Web Resources

- Central People's Government
<https://www.gov.cn/>
- Chinese Communist Party
www.cpcnews.cn
- Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the State Council
<https://www.hmo.gov.cn/>
- Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

- <http://www.locpg.hk/>
- National Development and Reform Commission
<http://ndrc.gov.cn/>
- Central Policy Unit (now restructured as the Policy Innovation and Coordination Unit
https://www.pico.gov.hk/en/policyresearch/research_reports.html
- Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong
<http://www.gdeto.gov.hk/en/home/index.html>
- Hong Kong Monetary Authority
<http://www.hkma.gov.hk/eng/publications-and-research/research/>
- Hong Kong Trade Development Council
<http://research.hktdc.com/tc/>
- Greater Bay Area website of the HKSAR Government
<https://www.bayarea.gov.hk/tc/home/index.html>

9. Related Journals

Asian Survey
China Information
China: An International Journal
Cities
The China Journal
The China Quarterly
China Review
Environment and Planning (A)
Environment and Planning (C)
Habitat International
International Journal of Urban and Regional Research
Journal of Contemporary China
Journal of Contemporary Asia
Journal of East Asian Studies
Journal of Chinese Political Science
Journal of Contemporary China
Journal of Current Chinese Affairs
Modern Asian Studies
Modern China
Pacific Affairs
Pacific Review
Urban Studies

10. Academic Honesty

The University upholds the principles of honesty in all areas of academic work. We expect our students to carry out all academic activities honestly and in good faith. Please refer to the *Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity* (<https://www.eduhk.hk/re/uploads/docs/000000000016336798924548BbN5>). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

11. Others

Nil

Updated December 2025