SOSC 1661 Contemporary Hong Kong: Government and Politics
Division of Social Science, HKUST
(Fall, 2020)

Instructor:
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Aims
By unfolding the multi-dimensions of Hong Kong’s political system, political culture, and political dynamics before and after its handover, this course aims to review the factors shaping the governance of Hong Kong. Throughout the course, intensive class interaction will be encouraged and multi-media teaching instruments will be adopted to stimulate learning.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the term, students should be able to

- Understand important aspects of government and politics in Hong Kong in the context of the changing environment before and after the transfer of sovereignty.
- Possess the knowledge of actors and institutions involved in the operation of government and political arena, and relate them to some basic concepts and theories of political science.
- Understand some important features of Hong Kong’s government and politics and to nurture their ability to think critically.

Enrollment requirement: no prerequisite

Assessment and Grading:

✓ One to two tests with multiple choice questions and short essay-type question(s) [100%]

Assessment Details:
✓ One to two tests with multiple choice questions & short essay-type question(s) take place during lecture(s). The date(s) will be announced beforehand.
✓ My lectures, lecture notes, and videos shown in lectures and all 12 pieces of required readings below will help with your preparation for the test(s).

[*Remark: There are NO ‘make-up’ arrangements except for medical or family
emergency, which have to be proven by evidence.]

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**Course Structure**

Most of the following aspects of Hong Kong government and politics will be covered, depending on the availability of time and political contexts:

1. Anti-government protests in Hong Kong: Causes and Effects

2. Challenges to governance & Quality of Life in Hong Kong since 1997: A snapshot review of Hong Kong’s past 23 years since the handover.

3. Past model of economic and political development before 1997: Why was legitimacy problem less obvious than the post-handover period? Can the past model still work for the post-handover Hong Kong?


5. Executive and legislative branch: Why has there been a high degree of tension since the handover? Empirical Assessment of Performance of Functional constituencies: should they be maintained?

6. Political parties and elections – main features in a hybrid regime?

7. Discussion of some of the following challenges for Donald Tsang’s / CY Leung’s regime

   i. Is there government-business collusion in HK?
   ii. Rising income inequality – political implications
   iii. Freedom of press under threat?
   iv. Debate and Conflict over express rail / moral and national education: implications?
   v. Younger generation, social movements & Hong Kong politics: causes, nature and strategies.
   vi. China-Hong Kong tensions.

8. Changing political culture: a new generation?

9. Civil society and political mobilization

10. Debate on democratic reform: should universal suffrage be implemented as soon as possible? Is Hong Kong ready for it?


12. New Political Development after the Umbrella Movement /Anti-authoritarian Movement (2019-2020)
Required Readings for Selected Topics for Lectures

I: Human Rights & Freedom of Press since the Handover

**Question:** To what extent have we experienced retrogression in human rights and freedom of press since the handover? (To what extent has the Basic Law protected Hong Kong’s way of life without limiting its continuous development?)

**Required Readings:**


**Optional:**


**Supplementary Readings:**

Shiu, Sin-por (2008) “The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region: Ten Years Later”, in Ming K Chan ed., *China's Hong Kong transformed: retrospect and prospects beyond the first decade*, Hong Kong: City University of Hong Kong Press.
Question: To what extent is Hong Kong a developed society in terms of its socio-economic development? Is Hong Kong a place of opportunities or a place of inequities? What opportunities will be provided by the changes in levels of social inequality and who will benefit more? To what extent is there an uneven distribution of wealth in Hong Kong and what is its impact on society?

Required Reading:


Optional:


Supplementary Readings:


Leo F. Goodstadt (2013). Poverty in the midst of affluence: how Hong Kong mismanaged its prosperity. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.


Sing, Ming (2009). “Perception of Governance, Social Capital & Quality of Life in Hong Kong,” in a book project of Asian cultures of Seven East Asian Societies edited by Inoguchi, Takashi based on the Asia Barometer Project.


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Publications from Society for Community Organization (SoCO) (香港社區組織協會) on inequality, human rights, discrimination:
http://www.soco.org.hk/publication/publication_index.htm#two

Website of SoCo: http://www.soco.org.hk/index_c.htm:

i/ 香港社區組織協會 香港人權聯委會 沒有民主時間表! 沒有消除貧窮問題 - 就聯合國全球週期檢討會議 向聯合國人權理事會提交香港區人權報告 (2008 年 9 月) 報告(英文版)

ii/ Hong Kong Human Rights Commission No time table for democracy or eradication of poverty - Submission to the United Nations Human Rights Council for the Universal Periodic Review of Hong Kong SAR, China (September 2008)

iii/ 基層勞工在職貧窮調查報告 (2008 年 10 月) 報告(中文)

iv/ 貧窮兒童調查系列八：學前教育資助對貧窮兒童的影響調查報告 (2008 年 8 月) 報告(中文)

v/ 貧窮兒童研究系列七：貧窮兒童對兒童發展基金意見調查報告 (2008 年 6 月 1 日) 報告(中文)


Newspapers:
-中產向下流貧富愈見懸殊 23-2-7_files
-許寶強：經濟增長可以扶貧嗎 16-4-7_files
-雷鼎鳴：香港並無出現「M 形」社會 20-3-7_files
-香港樓市連續第 9 年全球最難負擔 不吃不喝 20.9 年才能買樓 2019-01-21
Question: Is it true that Political elections in Hong Kong have been basically battles fought between pro-China and anti-China forces”? What factors have shaped the development of political parties in Hong Kong? (Do Hong Kong people have equal opportunities in political participation? What are the factors that influence Hong Kong people’s political participation?)

Required Reading:


Optional:


Supplementary Readings:
Lau Siu Kai and Kuan Hsin. (2003). Chi “Intermediation environments and election in Hong Kong” in Hong Kong government & politics, ed. by Sing, Ming, Hong Kong: Oxford University Press.


Question: Should we abolish functional constituencies in Hong Kong?
(Do Hong Kong people have equal opportunities in political participation? What are the factors that influence Hong Kong people’s political participation? Under the existing system, does the government respond to the demands of the general public in a positive way? Are there adequate means for Hong Kong people to monitor the government and redress their grievances?

How should our way of life continue to develop under ‘one country, two systems’ and the Basic Law? To what extent has the Basic Law protected our way of life without limiting its continuous development?)

Required Reading:

Sing, Ming. (2007). “To What Extent Have Members of the Functional Constituencies Performed the "Balancing Role" in Hong Kong?" in The HKSAR -- the Lost Decade? Joseph Cheng ed., Hong Kong: City University of Hong Kong Press.

Optional:
A top website on problems with functional constituencies: www.afc.hk


Sing, Ming, 應否全面廢除功能議席? (Ming Pao)


Supplementary Readings:

Other years: http://www.geocities.com/legco_catholic_monitors/
5. Debates on Hong Kong’s Democratic Reform

Question: Should universal suffrage be used to elect the Chief Executive and the entire legislature for Hong Kong in 2012? To what extent can the public pressure for democracy be dissolved by the HKSAR and Chinese government’s use of “economic cards”?

(How should our way of life continue to develop under ‘one country, two systems’ and the Basic Law? To what extent has the Basic Law protected our way of life without limiting its continuous development?)

Required Readings:
Fong, B. (2016). In-between liberal authoritarianism and electoral authoritarianism: Hong Kong’s democratization under Chinese sovereignty, in Democratization.

Sing, Ming and YS Tang. (2012) “Mobilization and Conflicts over Hong Kong’s Democratic Reform”, Contemporary Hong Kong Politics, 2nd edition, eds. by Lam WM etc. ed., Hong Kong: University of Hong Kong Press.

Optional:


Sing, Ming 為甚麼要民主？.pdf (Aug. 2011)
http://ihome.ust.hk/~somsing/By-election.pdf


Sing, Ming. (2014). “民主有助管治—回應王卓祺教授”. in MingPao 27-3-2014
https://goo.gl/3Df6Nw

Supplementary Readings:


Ng, Margaret. (2008). “Democratization of the Hong Kong SAR: A Pro-democracy View” in Ming K Chan ed., China's Hong Kong transformed: retrospect and prospects beyond the first decade, Hong Kong: City University of Hong Kong Press, 2008.


Shiu, Sin-por. (2008). The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region: Ten Years Later, Hong Kong: City University of Hong Kong Press, 2008.


6. Causes and Implications of the Umbrella Movement /Anti-authoritarian Movement

Questions: Has the Umbrella Movement/Anti-authoritarian movement been a failed campaign? What are the causes and implications of the Umbrella Movement/anti-authoritarian movement in Hong Kong?

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:


**Media reference:**
未竟之路 = Road not takenOutFocus Productions
製作；導演林子穎, 黃頌朗. Hong Kong : OutFocus Productions. 2017
(HKUST library) Media Resources HN752.5.W45 2017

亂世備忘 = Yellowing
導演陳梓桓；監製陳梓桓, Peter Yam. 香港：影意志. 2016
(HKUST library) Media Resources HN752.5.L83 2016

《未夠秤》Lessons in dissent
-Joshua Wong: anti-national education directed by Matthew Torne; produced by Matthew Torne & Grace Wong. 2015
(HKUST library) Media Resources LA1134.H6 L47 2015

傘不走的女聲 Do you hear the women sing? (updated version) --Female's Participation in the Umbrella Movement and their Perspectives of the Movement
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_4VBH-_cSI

Umbrella Revolution: History as Mirror Reflection 雨傘革命實錄：以史為鏡
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcvZrQiWBR0

Joshua: Teenager vs. Superpower (Netflix)
Additional References
Videos:
Streaming Videos of HKUST: http://catalog.ust.hk/stream/
   a. 議事論事
      http://programme.rthk.org.hk/rthk/tv/programme.php?name=legco_review&d =2010-02-04&p=866&e=&m=episode
   b. Pulse
   c. 鏗鏘集
      http://programme.rthk.org.hk/rthk/tv/programme.php?name=hkcc&d=2010-02-07&p=858&e=&m=episode
   d. Hong Kong Connection,
   e. 新聞透視 http://programme.tvb.com/news/newsmagazine/episode/
2. SOCREC: https://new.livestream.com/socreclive

Key references:
6. 馬嶽 (2016). 《民主十問》 出版社：香港城市大學


9. Sing, Ming and Lucy Cummings (2010) *Constitutional Reform for Good Governance in Hong Kong*. Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong: Center for Comparative and Public Law.


19. Ask for weekly newspaper cuttings: hkjp@hkjp.org (an excellent source of updated newspaper cuttings).

20. Hong Kong Democratic Development Network: http://www.hkddn.org/

21. Newspaper cuttings (Search through Wisenews).


23. HKU Public opinion data: http://hkupop.hku.hk/
24. Lingnan University Public opinion data: http://www.ln.edu.hk/rsp/info/self-funded.htm

25. Hong Kong Transition Project Public opinion data: http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/~hktp/


27. Classroom for Democratic Education: www.cdehk.com

Useful Websites for Writing Term Paper & Conducting Research

Hong Kong Free Press https://www.hongkongfp.com/

立場新聞 https://thestandnews.com/

眾新聞 https://www.facebook.com/hkcnews/?fref=nf&pnref=story

端傳媒 Initium Media https://theinitium.com/

獨立媒體 http://www.inmediahk.net/

Hong Kong Journal http://www.hkjournal.org/

852 郵報 http://www.post852.com/

OUR TV https://www.ourtv.hk/ or https://www.ourtv.hk/cgi-bin/ourdb/bdetail?session_id=start&share=ourdb@ourtv.hk&dbname=vid_Category&template=34418260201&key=190

Professional Commons http://www.procommons.org.hk/

http://www.ddepot.org/

National Democratic Institute

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government Information Centre
http://www.info.gov.hk/

《思》雙月刊 http://www.hkcidata.org/database/sze/sze.html

正義和平委員會 http://www.hkjp.org/index.htm


Hong Kong people reporter http://www.hkreporter.com/


Political Science Resources website http://www.ucd.ie/~politics/genpols.html; http://www.hku.hk/ppaweb/sitemain.htm

Hong Kong Human Rights Commission (香港人權聯委會) http://www.hkhrc.org.hk/homepage/index_c.htm (Contains very useful data on both local and overseas human rights as well comments on local human rights)

Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor (similar to above), http://hkhrm.org.hk/english/index.html

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (民建聯) http://www.dab.org.hk/en/index.jsp

Civic Party (公民黨) http://www.civicparty.hk/

Hong Kong Democratic Party (民主黨) http://www.dphk.org/


International websites: BBC http://news.bbc.co.uk

Important resource on HK's political reform http://www.hku.hk/ccpl/Constitutionalreform.html


Financial Times http://news.ft.com/world

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Book shops: https://goo.gl/HaHWpN

序言書室: www.hkreaders.com