HONG KONG CULTURE

I. AIMS

(1) To examine the symbolic and cultural meanings embedded in Hong Kong society;
(2) To decipher the cultural and social processes underlying the identity formation of the Hong Kong people - locally, nationally and globally;
(3) To sensitize students to the interplay among culture, power and politics in various domains of social life from a critical perspective.

II. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to

- Explain the various facets of Hong Kong culture including its structure, history, spatiality, generational differences, power dynamics, and local/ national/ global connections;
- Analyze culture in terms of the values, meanings, discourses and ideologies underpinning public policies, politics, the media and everyday life;
- Formulate their own informed interpretations of Hong Kong culture.

III. CONTENT

The course, consisting of a series of lectures and seminars, is organized around 3 thematic clusters:

i) Identity Issues
ii) Space, Community and Cityscape
iii) Politics and Civil Society

- “Identity Issues” consists of two sub-themes, namely (i) Hong Kong Identity and (ii) Chinese National Identity. Hong Kong Identity focuses on the historical emergence and formation of local identity through the local/ national/ global nexus; it looks at the roles of popular culture (market), the state and civil society in shaping our local culture since the 1960s. Chinese National Identity focuses on a different facet of identity formation among the Hong Kong people, regarding the construction of “Chineseness” in different domains of social life including education, politics and the mass media from colonial times to the post-colonial era.

- “Space, Community and Cityscape” extends the discussion of culture and identity into the arena of urban space and development, exploring the issues of memory and heritage, public versus private space, globalism and localism, community and development, urban versus rural, as well as home and housing inequalities.

- “Politics and Civil Society” takes issue with the political apathy thesis from different perspectives, deciphers our political culture (or the cultural fabric of our political society) and examines the dynamics in civil society as well as the public sphere, with a view to exploring the possibility of democratic change. The discussion brings us back to the identity theme.

IV. MODES OF LEARNING/ASSESSMENT

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<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Short Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Presentation</td>
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<td>Seminar Participation</td>
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<td>Essay</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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Students are required to attend the seminars; each student will do one group presentation and participate in discussion in the seminars.

A short assignment, on an individual basis, is due via Canvass on October 11 (Sun), 11:59pm. (See section VI for the details)

An essay, on an individual basis, is due via Canvass on December 20 (Sun), 11:59pm. Please choose from among the 8 seminar questions (Q1-Q8 only) and write an essay of 2,000-2,500 words in English or in Chinese. References should be included.

Final exam will be in the form of essays.

V. SCHEDULE FOR LECTURES AND SEMINARS

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<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>[08/09] Introduction</td>
<td>[10/09] Identity Issues I</td>
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<td>[29/09] Identity Issues II</td>
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<td>[06/10] Identity Issues II</td>
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<td>[13/10] Space &amp; Community</td>
<td>[15/10] Seminar (1)</td>
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<td>[20/10] Seminar (2)</td>
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<td>[27/10] Space &amp; Community</td>
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VI. SHORT ASSIGNMENT

Write an essay of 500-800 words, in English or in Chinese, on ONE of the following two questions with CLOSE reference to the required reading. (You are advised to focus your discussion primarily on the reading.) The purpose is to give you some preliminary training regarding the method, approach as well as language used in cultural/discourse analysis. [Due date: October 11, 11:59pm]

Question (A)
“The formation of Hong Kong identity is a process of hegemonic construction.” Discuss this statement with reference to the right of abode example.

Reading {also reading for seminar 1}:

Question (B)
“The nation is a cultural and political construction.” Discuss this statement with reference to the following reading.

Reading {also reading for seminar 2}:
VII. CLASS DISCUSSION, SEMINAR QUESTIONS AND READINGS

[22/09] Discussion
Identify specific idioms or icons that you think most represent the Hong Kong ethos at the present time and analyze their symbolic meanings. How far do these meanings reflect some larger ideological discourses? (*Please prepare two different examples in writing, in just a couple of lines, and submit them by Sep 21, 10pm.)

Readings
吳俊雄 (2002): 「尋找香港本土意識」

[15/10] Seminar Q1 [Identity I] – Narrating Hong Kong
Analyze the cultural frameworks and discourses used to narrate Hong Kong and discuss how these constructions shed light on the representation of Hong Kong identity from past to present.

Basic Readings
Turner & Ngan (1995), Hong Kong Sixties
Ku (2018), “Identity as Politics”
Ku (2001b), “Hegemonic Construction”

Recommended
許寶強 (2012 續篇)，頁 1-8

[Advice]
● Consider the cultural frameworks, metaphors and discourses used to describe Hong Kong.
● Analyze developments and changes over time and pay attention to possible differences among different domains (e.g. popular culture, government promotion, and politics).
● Reflect on how identity boundaries were drawn with what implications.

[20/10] Seminar Q2 [Identity II] – Constructing “China”
Examine the divergent discourses of Chinese nationalism whereby Hong Kong has been variously positioned (e.g. incorporated or differentiated) vis-à-vis mainland China over the years.

Basic Readings
盧思聰 (1997): 「民族主義與殖民統治」，載羅永生(編)
羅永生(2014): 「香港本土意識的前世今生」[節錄]
黎國威 (2017): 「香港性與中國性之間：廣東話」

Recommended
李祖舜 (2011): 「香港文化的邊緣」，載彭麗君(編)

[Advice]
● Pay attention to the differences and dynamics in the discourses between different camps and in different fields; explain the development as well as the outcome.
**Seminar Q3 [Space] – Cityscape**

*How have the city images of Hong Kong been formed, mobilized and contested? Analyze how cultural factors interact with other factors in shaping the cityscape as well as spatial development of Hong Kong since the 1980s.*

**Basic Reading**
- Ku and Tsui (2008), “The ‘Global City’ as a Cultural Project”
- Chin (2014) “Diasporic Memories and Conceptual Geography” (Extracts only)

**Recommended**
- 梁啟智 (2013): 「高鐵爭議中的邊緣化和融合想像」

**[Advice]**
- Healey’s article provides a clear exposition of the idea of city images.
- Give some thought to the divergent ideologies and discourses at work at different times.
- Other factors include political economy, geography and social factors etc.
- Consider not only the government but also other actors who have played a role.

**Seminar Q4 [Space] – Local Places**

*What is a place in socio-cultural terms? Analyze the dynamics in the processes of place-making with reference to some specific examples in Hong Kong.*

**Basic Readings**

**Recommended**
- 許寶強 (2009), 頁 224-237

**[Advice]**
- Gieryn’s article provides a good overview on the notion of place.
- Think about the role of culture in place-making. (Consider how cultural resources are used and how discourse and space shape each other in generating cultural resources etc.)
- Consider the dynamics contributing to the making/ un-making/ re-making of places (as well as communities.)

**Seminar Q5 [Space] – Home & Housing**

"Home is a cultural construction that reinforces social inequalities." Discuss this statement with reference to the class structure, housing policies and public discourses in Hong Kong. (See advice on p.5)

**Readings**
- 陳錦華等 (1997): 【香港城市與房屋】，頁 141-156，169-178。
- 黎婉薇 (1996): 「大都會計劃的背後」。
- Choi et al. (2019), “Luxury Housing”

**Recommended**
- 許寶強 (2012 續篇)，頁 16-22

**[Advice]**
• Analyze how “home” has been culturally constructed in society.
• Delineate the social/housing inequalities and explain in what ways the cultural construction of “home” reinforces (or simply reflects) such inequalities.

[26/11] **Seminar Q6 [Politics]: Collective Action (Umbrella Movement)**
“The Umbrella Movement was as much about questions of identity as about political democracy.” Discuss.

**Basic Readings**
- Ku (2019), “In Search of a New Political Subjectivity”
- 羅永生 (2018), 戴鄭煒、袁瑋熙（編）駱穎佳 (2020), 「空間政治的情感轉向」

[Advice]
• Consider how identity boundaries were formulated in the Hong Kong context, e.g. local vs. national, young vs. old generation, and how identity was expressed in political, cultural (e.g. through art) and emotional terms during protests.

[01/12] **Seminar Q7 [Politics]: Solidarity & Conflict in Civil Society**
The pro-democracy movement has shown varying degrees of unity/disunity over time. Explain the cultural and political dynamics contributing to such development during 2014-2019.

**Basic Readings**
- Yuen (2018), “Contesting Middle-Class Civility”

[Advice]
• Pay attention not only to political differences but also to how specific frames, discourses and mechanisms were used to mobilize, unite, and/or fragment the movement from within.

[03/12] **Seminar Q8 [Politics] – State Power and Hegemony**
The post-handover years have seen increasing political conflicts. Analyze the political and cultural (e.g. hegemonic) strategies used by the government to maintain power and contest opposition, and comment on their effectiveness.

**Basic Readings**
- Ku (2004c), “Negotiating” (Note: Focus on the parts relating more to the question.)
- Ku (2001a), “The ‘Public’ up against the State”
- Cheng (2019), “Hong Kong’s Hybrid Regime”

**Recommended**

[Advice]
• Try to first delineate a general picture of political power and cultural hegemony based on the readings, and then illustrate with examples how they were at work in some cases.
• Beware of the difference between political and cultural strategies.
• Regarding the latter, consider how discourses might serve to rationalize certain action, and how hegemonic framework might or might not work in certain situations.
VIII. REFERENCES

A. Hong Kong Culture: Introduction/Overview
1. 吳俊雄 (2002):「尋找香港本土意識」。載吳俊雄、張志偉編：【閱讀香港普及文化】。香港:牛津大學。頁86-95。
2. 谷淑美 (2002):【文化、身分與政治】。載謝均才編：【我們的地方,我們的時間---香港社會新編】。香港:牛津大學。頁343-373。

B. Hong Kong Culture: Specific Issues
5. 呂大樂、黃偉邦 (1993):「階級、不平等與道德秩序－從階級結構及社會流動看過渡期的香港」。載【過渡期的香港】。香港:一國兩制經濟研究中心、香港中文大學亞太研究所、香港浸會大學香港東西文化經濟交流中心。頁534-549
6. 谷淑美、徐匡慈 (2009):「一場新社區運動帶來的啓迪——從『忽然』文化說起」。載馬傑偉、吳俊雄、呂大樂編：【香港文化、政治】。香港:香港大學出版社。
7. 李祖豪 (2011), 載彭麗君 (編): 【邊域對話: 香港·中國·邊緣·邊界】。香港:香港中文大學出版社。頁275-299。
8. 梁啟智 (2013):「高鐵爭議中的邊緣化和融合想像」。載張少強等 (編): 【香港•論述•傳媒】。香港:牛津,頁189-203。
9. 許寶強 (2009):【告別犬儒---香港自由主義的危機】。香港:牛津，頁133-150, 224-237。
13. 駱穎佳 (2020):「空間政治的情感轉向---以雨傘運動例」。載【情感資本主義】。香港:獨立出版。
14. 黎國威 (2017):「香港性與中國性之間：廣東話」。載張少強、梁啟智、陳嘉銘編：【香港:社會,角力】。香港:匯智出版。頁97-116。
15. 黎婉薇 (1996):「大都會計劃的背後」。載甘炳光等編:【香港房屋政策評論】。香港:三聯, 頁104-111。
17. 羅永生 (2014):「香港本土意識的前世今生」。【思想】。2014 年10月。{節錄}
18. 羅永生 (2018):「身份政治往何處去?」。載鄭煒、袁瑋熙 (編):【社運年代---香港抗爭政治的軌跡】。香港:香港中文大學，頁19-36。


34. Ku, Agnes S. 2012 “Re-making Places and Fashioning an Opposition Discourse – Struggle over the Star Ferry Pier and the Queen’s Pier in Hong Kong.” Environment and Planning D: Space and Society, Volume 30, pp.5-22.


C. General Theoretical Resources

53. 郭恩慈 (2011)。【東亞城市空間生產——探索東京、上海、香港的城市文化】。臺北：田園城市文化。