

Lingnan University
Department of Political Science

Course Title : One Country, Two Systems: Central-Hong Kong SAR Relationships

Course Code : POL 317

Recommended Year of Study: 2nd and 3rd Years

Lecturer : Dr Wong Yiu-chung (Room 304, wongyc@ln.edu.hk)

No. of Credits/Term: Three credits

Mode of Tuition: Lecture plus tutorial

Class Contact Hours: 2 hours lecture, 1 hour tutorial

Academic Year: Second Term 2009/2010

Brief Course Description: The course intends to equip students with a broader and deeper understanding on the increasingly intimate and complicated relationships between mainland China in general, and the Central government in Beijing in particular, and Hong Kong. The course will be divided into two parts: the first part dealing with theories that look at the central-local relationships in general and secondly, addressing the concrete issues that emerge in the post-Handover political and economic scene in Hong Kong in the context of the PRC Central government and Hong Kong SAR relationships.

Aims: It is hoped that students will acquire a basic understanding of the dynamics of the interaction between Hong Kong and mainland China since the Handover.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to develop their own expertise in analyzing Hong Kong-mainland China relationships and hopefully the knowledge will be useful in their career path.

Indicative Content

1. The Background

- a) Hong Kong as a British Colony (1842-1997)
- b) Minimal state and refuge society
- c) Separate developments of HK and China

2. Federalism and Unitary State

- a) The Basic Law-The mini constitution
- b) The institutionalization of the Central –SAR relationship
- c) How high is the autonomy-a comparison with Shanghai

3. One Nation, Two States

- a) The German case
- b) The Korean case
- c) The mainland – Taiwan relationship

- 4) The Formal and Informal Aspects of Central-SAR Relationships
 - a) The formal institutions
 - b) Lack of institutionalization in Chinese political system
 - c) Mainlandization of Hong Kong system?

- 5) The Politics of the Court of Final Appeal Ruling Debate
 - a) The contradictions in the two legal systems
 - b) Political implication of the reinterpretation of the NPC
 - b) Judicial independence in jeopardy?

- 6) The Political Culture Divide
 - a) The state of political apathy
 - b) The impact of June 4 1989 crackdown
 - c) Two distinct political cultures ?

- 7) The Implementation of the Ministerial System
 - a) The origin and the rationale
 - b) The impact on the existing political system
 - c) The implementation

- 8) The Debate on Democratic Transition
 - a) The comprehensive review of political system stipulated by the Basic Law
 - b) The 2nd and 3rd reinterpretation by the NPC
 - c) Is 'One Country, Two Systems' working?

Teaching method: lectures and tutorials

Measurement of Learning Outcomes: final examination, paper, presentation and discussion

Essential Readings

So, Alvin. 1999. *Hong Kong's Embattled Democracy-A Societal Analysis*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press

The Basic Law of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China. (Website: www.info.gov.hk)

Wong Yiu-chung, 2004 (ed.) *'One Country, Two Systems' in Crisis-Hong Kong's Transformation since the Handover*. Lanhan: Lexington Books, Rowman & Littlefield.

Supplementary Readings

Chan, Ming K and Alvin Y.So, (eds.), 2002. *Crisis and Transformation in China's Hong Kong*. New York: M.E.Sharpe.

Chung, Sze-yuen. 2001. *Hong Kong's Journey to Reunification-Memoirs of Sir Sze-yuen Chung*. Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press.

Elazar, Danaiel J. (ed.),1994. *Federal Systems of the World: A Handbook of Federal, Confederal and Autonomy Arrangements*. Essex: Longman.

He Pin and Gao Xin. 1998. *How Beijing Manipulates Hong Kong* (in Chinese). Ontario, Canada: Mirrors Books.

Hong Kong SAR Government, 2007. *Green Paper on Constitutional Development*

Hong Kong SAR Government, 2009. *Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive and for Forming the Legislative Council in 2012*, Consultation Document.

Lau Siu-kai, (ed.), 2002. *The First Tung Chee-hwa Administration*. Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press.

Lo Shiu-hing, Sonny, 2008. *The Dynamics of Beijing-Hong Kong----A Model for Taiwan?* Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

Wong Yiu-chung, 2005. *From Deng Xiaoping to Jiang Zemin: Two Decades of Political Reform in the People's Republic of China*. New York: University of America, Chapters 4 and 5.

Wong Yiu-chung, 2006. “ ‘Super Paradox’ or ‘Leninist Integration’: The Politics of Legislating Article 23 of the Basic Law in Hong Kong”, in *Asian Perspective*, Vol.30, No.2, 2006, pp.65-95.

Ming Pao Daily, page of point of view (Chinese)

Economic Journal Daily, commentary page (Chinese)

South China Morning Post, feature page

Assessment: final examination 70%, continuous assessment 30% (paper 10%, presentation 15%, discussion and attendance 5 %)

Tutorial Topics for presentation and discussion:

Format of the oral presentation and written report:

- 1) The class is divided into a number of groups.
- 3) The length of the written report is about 12 pages, excluding references and bibliography. Plagiarism is not allowed.
- 4) A4-sized paper should be used and English should be typed in double spacing.
- 5) Written report should be submitted two weeks after oral presentation.
- 6) Written report should include title page, content page and references.
- 7) Late submission should obtain the permission of the lecturer concerned, otherwise penalized.

Topics:

- The origin of the principle of 'One Country, Two Systems'
- Taiwan's attitudes towards 'One Country, Two Systems'
- Hong Kong and Shanghai compared
- Hong Kong and Macau compared
- Beijing's Policies towards Hong Kong since the Handover
- Ministerial system in Hong Kong
- Party Politics in Hong Kong
- The impact of economic integration with Pearl River Delta on the 'One Country, Two Systems'

Miscellaneous Notes

The penalty for the late submission of term papers

- A) Late submission within five working days of the due date. One grade will be deducted, e.g. B grade will become B-, etc.
- B) Late submission beyond five working days will receive "F" grade for the work.

The Issue of Plagiarism

Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations.

Last Week Examination: 20th April 2010