

Course Title	:	Hong Kong Popular Culture
Course Code	:	CUS3314
Recommended Study Year	:	3-4
No. of Credits/Term	:	3
Mode of Tuition	:	Lecture-Tutorial / Lecture with Service-Learning
Class Contact Hours	:	3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.	:	Elective
Prerequisite(s)	:	Nil
Co-requisite(s)	:	Nil
Exclusion(s);	:	Nil
Brief Course Description	:	<p>This course aims to provide students with a critical introduction to popular culture in Hong Kong. Students will learn to assess for themselves the form, meaning and significance of popular culture, as well as to analyse the formation of cultural and social identity of Hong Kong people through concrete case studies. Students will study popular culture as something more than leisurely entertainment: it is a cultural process already inscribed in relations of power. Students will be asked to analyse the politics of Hong Kong popular culture in its particular historical and geopolitical conditions: marginal, postcolonial, postmodern, cosmopolitan, transnational and perpetually transiting. The course will draw on, but not limited to these critical perspectives: postcolonial criticism, postmodernist reading, gender theory, media and cinema studies.</p> <p>Specific topics will be selected from such areas as: the changing cultural status of Hong Kong through the post-war decades, Western and Asian influences and the transformation of indigenous culture, cinema as mass entertainment, the consumption and politics of popular music, electronic media, and the printed media, etc.</p>
Aims	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To introduce students to the various forms and themes found in Hong Kong popular culture in recent decades.</li> <li>2. To help students acquire the basic critical frameworks in analyzing Hong Kong popular culture in the local and international contexts.</li> <li>3. To incite students' critical reflections on Hong Kong popular culture in relation to their everyday life and the global popular.</li> </ol>
Learning Outcomes	:	<p>Students will be able to reason about for themselves the significance of Hong Kong popular culture in everyday life in the local, as well as broadly in the East-Asian and Euro-American contexts.</p> <p>Specifically students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. discuss various aspects of popular culture in conceptual terms (e.g., entertainment and creativity, consumption and power);</li> </ol>

2. use a set of critical tools to delineate and discuss the forms, themes and meanings of Hong Kong popular culture; and to describe and debate in a theoretically and historically informed manner the formation of cultural and social identity in contemporary Hong Kong society, with an awareness and understanding of the cosmopolitan characteristics of the city;
3. demonstrate a reflective, critical attitude toward their everyday cultural encounters that are predominated by popular forms that are more often than not globally popular.

Indicative Content

: General Analysis

1. Culture, ideology and the study of popular culture

Theoretical Perspectives

1. Postmodern aspects in Hong Kong popular Culture
2. Hong Kong's cultural anxieties through the lenses of postcolonial and postmodern criticism
3. Cultural identity and nationalism in colonial and postcolonial Hong Kong
4. Gender and sexuality in Hong Kong popular culture

Case Studies

1. Hong Kong cinema in the context of global popular culture
2. Cantopop and global popular music
3. Ideology, youth and the subversion of social norm
4. The foreign in Hong Kong popular culture

Teaching Method

- : Lectures supplemented with a wide range of multi-media materials to illustrate the nature and characteristics of Hong Kong popular culture.

For Tutorial

1. Tutorial presentations and discussions to induce more profound knowledge, analytical ability and critical dialogue among students.
2. Guided group projects to enhance students' independent learning, research skills and interests in the subject.

For Service-Learning

For this semester, this course offers students the choice of taking up Service Learning instead of the tutorials. In other words, those who choose service learning are exempt from attending tutorials. Instead, they are required to attain services at an assigned institution for the approximate number of hours as they would have attended the tutorials.

Estimated breakdown of Service-Learning workload:

Service-Learning Workshop	4 hours
Workshop sessions with partner organizations	10 hours
Project (participation in invigorating local Hong Kong pop culture such as food culture)	15 hours

Measurement of Learning Outcomes : 1. Quizzes require students to address specific analytical and critical concepts. Final examination assesses students' ability to (a) present informed discussions of broad issues of popular culture and (b) their skills in the practical use of conceptual tools.

2. Academic essays and tutorial presentations require students to practice cultural criticism by combining a close examination of specific cases/issues of Hong Kong popular culture with a skillful use of critical tools. Students are asked to formulate argumentative narratives in both verbal and written form that are assessed in terms of clarity of language, style of presentation, organization of arguments and substance of content.

3. The guided group project requires several students to work together as a team on a context-specific case study. The project requires students to reflect upon a variety of social and individual, mainstream and alternative attitudes toward the everyday practice and consumption of popular culture in urban Hong Kong. Consultation sessions require team members to express their own critical reflections on their daily cultural encounters in relation to the research project in question.

Assessment : Students are assessed on the basis of 70% Continuous Assessment and 30% Final Examination, with the following grade distribution:

For Tutorial Students:

Participation in Class Discussion	[10%]
Oral Presentation	[20%]
Written Assignments (papers, quizzes)	[20%]
Group Project	[20%]
Final Examination	[30%]

For Service-Learning Students:

Participation in Class Discussion	[10%]
Oral Presentation	[20%]
Reflective essay and end of the term presentation	[20%]
Performance & product (Service Learning)	[20%]
Final Examination.	[30%]

Students will be assessed by their performance at the organization (workshop participation) and their ability and engagement demonstrated in the assignments given by the organization. In addition, they are required to submit a reflective essay (the instructor will provide a structured proforma to guide the reflections). The essay will review how the student has performed acts of service learning at the partner organization during the semester. Finally, they have to give a presentation to the rest of the class towards the end of the semester about the project they are doing for the organization. The project they will do for the organization will count as the final project for the course.

### Required/Essential Readings:

- Lui, Tai-lok and Gordon Mathews. Ed. *Consuming Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2001. [selections]
- Storey, John. *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2006. [selections]

### Recommendation/Supplementary Readings:

- Chua, Beng Huat and Koichi Iwabuchi. Ed. *East Asian Pop Culture: Analysing the Korean Wave*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2008.
- Fung Ying-him 馮應謙。《香港流行音樂文化：文化研究讀本》。香港：麥穗出版社，2004。
- Iwabuchi, Koichi. Ed. *Feeling Asian Modernities: Transnational Consumption of Japanese TV Dramas*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2004.
- Law, Wing-sang. "The Violence of Time and Memory Undercover: Hong Kong's". *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* 7.3. (2006): 383-402.
- Li Chiu-hing 李照興。《香港後摩登：後現代時期的城市筆記》(*Hong Kong Postmodern*)。香港：指南針，2002。
- Lo, Kwai-cheung. *Chinese Face/Off: The Transnational Popular Culture of Hong Kong*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2005.
- Lok Fung 洛楓。《世紀末的城市：香港的流行文化》(*The Decadent City*)。香港：牛津大學出版社，1995。
- Ma, Kit-wai. *Culture, Politics and Television in Hong Kong: Culture and Communication in Asia*. London: Routledge, 1999.
- Ng, Chun-hung 吳俊雄編。《閱讀香港普及文化 1970-2000》(*Reading Hong Kong Popular Culture*)。香港：牛津大學出版社，2000。
- Ng, Chun-hung 吳俊雄、馬傑偉、呂大樂編。《香港·文化·研究》。香港：香港大學出版社，2006。
- Pun, Kwok-ling 潘國靈。《城市學》，《城市學2》(*Citiology Vols. 1 & 2*)。香港：Kubrick, 2005-2007。
- Turner, Mathew and Suk-fun Ngan. Eds. *Hong Kong in the Sixties: Cultural Identity and Design*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Arts Centre, 1994.
- Yu, Siu-wah 余少華。《樂在顛錯中：香港雅俗音樂文化》(*Out of Chaos and Coincidence: Hong Kong Music Culture*)。香港：牛津大學出版社，2001。
- . *Such Are the Fading Sounds*. Hong Kong: International Association of Theatre Critics (HK), 2005.

### Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3\* hours of class contact and 6\* hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is "the presentation of another person's work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student's own work". Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online

Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.

- \* Numbers of hours are subject to adjustment for individual courses.