

**Lingnan University**  
**Department of Visual Studies**

<b>Course Title</b>	: The Visual Cultures of Hong Kong
<b>Course Code</b>	: CLE9011/ GEC331/ VIS211
<b>Recommended Study Year</b>	: 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> years
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	: 3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	: Lecture and tutorial
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	: 2 hours lecture per week 1 hour tutorial per week
<b>Category in Major Programme</b>	: Programme Elective
<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	: N/A
<b>Co-requisite(s)</b>	: N/A
<b>Exclusion(s)</b>	: N/A
<b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b>	: N/A

**Brief Course Description**

A wide-ranging exploration of the visual cultures of Hong Kong with special emphasis on art (film, photography, opera, and theatre), urban space and architecture, and fashion.

**Aims**

To encourage students to think critically and deeply about the visual cultures that they inhabit.

**Learning Outcomes**

This course is designed to enhance basic reasoning, appreciative, and expressive skills as well as to promote an ability to think analytically and critically about the visual cultures of Hong Kong.

Basic knowledge of fundamental approaches to visual culture and visual studies

This knowledge enables students to:

1. Acquire basic tools and approaches allowing them to recognize and analyze visual culture.
2. Assess claims made about visual culture. Understand problematic issues in discussions of visual culture.

Ability to engage in further, independent learning and reflection

This ability enables students to:

1. Extend their critical understanding to other aspects of Hong Kong's visual environment.
2. Make connections between different kinds of visual cultures in a cross-cultural and historical perspective

**Indicative Content**

1. Visual Style in the Hong Kong Cinema

An exploration of the distinctive styles of a number of key Hong Kong filmmakers, such as Johnny To and Wong Kar-wai.

2. Urban landscapes: The Aesthetics of Density

An introduction to the many different urban landscapes of Hong Kong, with a special emphasis on concepts of density.

3. Contemporary Hong Kong Art

An introduction to the visual styles of contemporary Hong Kong artists, and to the influences that inform these styles

4. Hong Kong through the Eyes of the Photographer

An exploration of the contrast between highly stereotypic or clichéd representations of Hong Kong and recent attempts to capture the specificity of Hong Kong through more experimental approaches.

5. Money and Visual Culture

An exploration of the ways in which money impacts on visual culture in Hong Kong. Examples to be discussed include the visual language of advertising, fashion brands and visual display, and global capital and fantasy (Hong Kong's Disneyland)

**Teaching Method**

This course will draw on the tools of stylistic and aesthetic analysis, and will complement these methods with cultural analysis where relevant.

**Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

Students' ability to identify, analyse, and understand key features of Hong Kong's visual culture. Assessment of the students will focus on their active participation in the course, on their ability to read and understand critical texts, and on their performance in written assignments, presentations and a final examination.

**Assessment**

60% Continuous Assessment

40% Final Examination

**Required Readings**

Abbas, Ackbar. *Hong Kong: Culture and the Politics of Disappearance*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 1997.

Bordwell, David. *Planet Hong Kong: Popular Cinema and the Art of Entertainment*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2000.

Clarke, David. *Hong Kong Art: Culture and Decolonization*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2001.

---. *Reclaimed Land: Hong Kong in Transition*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2002.

Magnago, Vittorio., et al. *Hong Kong Architecture: The Aesthetics of Density*. Prestel, 1993.

**Supplementary Readings**

Cheng, Po-hung. *Early Hong Kong Eateries*. Hong Kong: University Museum and Arts Gallery,

2003.

Donald, Stephanie Hemelryck. 'The Idea of Hong Kong: Structures of Attention in the City of Life.' In *Urban Space and Cityscapes: Perspectives from Modern and Contemporary Culture*, ed. Christopher Lindner. London: Routledge, 2006.

Foglesong, Richard. *Married to the Mouse: Walt Disney World and Orlando*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003.

Li, Siu Leung. *Cross-Dressing in Chinese Opera*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2003.

Ng, Edward. 'Green Architecture in Hong Kong, the Densest City in the World.' In *Green Architecture*, ed. Brian Edwards. London: Wiley-Academy, 2001.

Rooney, Nuala. *At Home with Density*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2003.

Wong, Wendy Siuyi. *Hong Kong Comics: 30 Postcards*. Princeton: Princeton Architectural Press, 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.