

Modern Hong Kong (HIST1017)

Summer Institute in the Arts & Humanities, Faculty of Arts (HKU)

Summer Semester, 2023/24

Instructor: Dr. Tim Yung (timyungk@hku.hk), Department of History

Lectures: 24 June – 12 July 2024 (2:30pm – 5:30pm and venue TBC)

Office Hours: *By appointment* (schedule via email to Dr. Yung)

Course Description

This course explores Hong Kong's history since the early 1800s. Hong Kong sits at the intersection of Chinese history and world history. Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, it became a place with its own identity. Which persons or ideas influenced the shaping of Hong Kong? In what ways was Hong Kong connected to British empire and modern China? What were the main themes in Hong Kong's development? How can historians make sense of Hong Kong's past? How has Hong Kong's past shaped its present? How should its past be represented? Using both primary and secondary sources, this course helps students to gain a basic understanding of modern Hong Kong and to read, think, and write critically.

Course Outcomes

Having taken this course, students are expected to:

1. Demonstrate a general understanding of the history of modern Hong Kong.
2. Situate Hong Kong's history in relation to the history of China and the British Empire.
3. Interpret historical literature and historical documents critically and analytically.
4. Write original and well-researched arguments relating to Hong Kong history.
5. Appreciate the historical roots of issues and challenges in present-day Hong Kong.

Teaching Arrangements

This course will be delivered through regular lectures and other learning activities.

Assessment

(100% coursework)

(1) Participation (attendance, in-class activities, source-based discussions)	35%
(2) Cumulative journal (<1,500 words)	20%
(3) Museum assignment (800-1,000 words)	15%
(4) Final essay (1,500-2,000 words)	30%

- Selected readings should be completed before each class.
- Unless prior arrangements are made, grades will be lowered each day an assignment is overdue.
- Any case of plagiarism will be severely penalized and reported to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, which could result in failure or expulsion from the University.
- Course-related announcements will be sent **only** to your HKU email address. Please ensure you check your HKU email regularly.

Course Details

Lectures will consist of several components: a lecture on a designated topic, in-class discussions, and a short time of reflection. Certain days will involve other learning activities such as films followed by discussion and field trips (to be confirmed). Students should complete the reading(s) for each class **beforehand**.

The **cumulative journal** is for students to note down their learning from each day's learning activities and readings. Students need not write *all* the things they have learned, but should share what things they found interesting, especially that which challenged their previous understanding of Hong Kong history. Students are strongly advised to write in their journal regularly throughout the course. The total wordcount of the journal should be no more than 1,500 words and should be uploaded to Moodle by 9pm on 13 July. Footnotes are optional.

The **museum assignment** is due at 9pm on 30 June and is designed to enable reflection on the challenges of 'objectively' depicting Hong Kong's history.

Consultations will take place during the third week. These 20-minute one-on-one meetings are **mandatory** for all students and will count towards participation. During consultations, students will meet with the instructor to receive personalized feedback on their museum assignment as well as their participation performance so far.

The **final essay** is due at 9pm on 19 July. Students must answer **one** of the designated questions, each involving important themes that cover several lectures and cut across Hong Kong history. Each question assesses *overall learning* throughout the course. As a result, all the questions have been set up to cover a broad chronology.

Submissions should use at least SIX published secondary sources.

Course Schedule

(Subject to amendment)

24 Jun (Mon)	Introduction to HIST1017 Hong Kong before 1842, the Opium Wars, and the Taiping Rebellion <i>Source discussion: Treaty of Nanjing and Bishop Smith's Prospectus</i>
25 Jun (Tue)	Nineteenth-Century Government and Society <i>Source discussion: Labouchere to Bowring</i>
26 Jun (Wed)	The New Territories, Plague, and Nationalism <i>Source discussion: E.J. Eitel's study of Feng Shui</i>
27 Jun (Thu)	The Interwar Years <i>Source discussion: Mui-Tsai Debate</i>
28 Jun (Fri)	World War Two <i>Field trip to Museum of Coastal Defence</i>
30 Jun (Sun)	Museum Assignment due (9pm)
1 Jul (Mon)	NO CLASS: PUBLIC HOLIDAY
2 Jul (Tue)	Post-War Hong Kong and the Global Cold War <i>Reading discussion: Alan Smart's study of post-war public housing</i>
3 Jul (Wed)	<i>The World of Suzie Wong (1960)</i> <i>Film discussion</i> <i>Consultations (1)</i>
4 Jul (Thu)	The 1960s <i>Source discussion: The 1967 Riots</i> <i>Consultations (2)</i>
5 Jul (Fri)	Hong Kong Identity <i>Consultations (3)</i>
8 Jul (Mon)	Countdown to 1997 and Handover <i>Source discussion: Sino-British Joint Declaration</i>
9 Jul (Tue)	<i>Chungking Express (1994)</i> <i>Film discussion</i>
10 Jul (Wed)	After 1997 and Presenting Hong Kong's Past <i>Source discussion: Exhibition from Museum of History</i>
11 Jul (Thu)	<i>Field Trip to Chungking Mansions</i>
12 Jul (Fri)	Final Essay Workshop and Closing Reflections
15-16 Jul	<i>Optional consultations for final essay planning</i>
19 Jul (Fri)	Final Essay due (9pm)