COMX 493.1/COMX 491.02
Hong Kong, Macau, & China: Communication, Culture, & Development
Spring 2020
Instructor: Dr. Phyllis Ngai
The University of Montana-Missoula
with
Hong Kong-American Center
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Course Description

China is a key player on the global stage. Taking back Hong Kong from the British and Macau from the Portuguese in 1997 and 1999 after 100 years of colonial rule, China is asserting influence against the waves of globalization and democratization at its doorsteps. This course provides an opportunity for students to develop an understanding of the socio-cultural changes that are happening under the “one country, two systems” policy. The topics to be surveyed include political discourses and the media, cultural convergence/divergence propelled by international communication, communication for social change and glocal citizenship, national/cultural identities shaped by different ideologies, impacts of globalization on culture and society, and development of global cities. The campus component of the course aims to expose students to a wide variety of materials based on multidisciplinary perspectives. The field component provides students with the opportunity to connect with local university students and professionals of different fields to exchange views on transnational phenomena and to experience in person intercultural communication at the confluence of the East and the West. COMX 493.01 is a 4-credit course with both the campus and field components. COMX 491.02 is a 3-credit on-campus course.

Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Understanding of the current socio-cultural, development, and communication issues in Hong Kong, Macau, and South China;
- Knowledge of key communication and development issues resulting from globalization in the selected contexts;
- Critical awareness of the power of mass and mediated communication as tools for control and resistance in the selected contexts;
- Critical awareness of cultural convergence and divergence brought about by global communication and development in the selected contexts;
- Ability to analyze critically discourses of political orientation and development;
- Ability to apply research skills to gain an understanding of the perspective held by the Chinese government in comparison to those of the people in Hong Kong, Macau, and South China.
- Improved intercultural competence for engaging cultural others.
Tentative Course Schedule (check Moodle for details and updates)

January 13  Course Introduction and Travel Orientation (trip participants only)

January 20  No Class (Martin Luther King)
- Required readings:
  - *Understanding Contemporary China* pp. 1-17; 110-121
  - *Villages in the City: A Guide to South China’s Informal Settlements* pp. 1-27, 47-61, 156-167
  - News articles of your choice

January 27  Pre-trip seminar: Development Issues in China
- Required Readings:
  - *Understanding Contemporary China* pp. 135-146, 165-170, 259-267, 288-297
  - Video: 24th street
  - News articles of your choice
- Guest Speaker: Dexter Roberts

February 3  Pre-trip seminar: Chinese Culture & Society
- Required Readings:
  - *Understanding Contemporary China* pp. 298-301, 345-360, 381-397
  - Video: *Complicit*
  - News articles of your choice
- In-class Reading Club (sign up for one of the following on Moodle):
  - *A Landscape of Travel* by Jenny Chio pp.21-40 / Video: Peasant Family Happiness
  - *The New Frontier: Changing Communication Patterns and China's Transformation into a "Network Society"* (pp.119-131)
  - *Social Media in Industrial China* (chapter 2)
  - *Corruption, Pollution, Inequality Are Top Concerns in China: Many Worry about Threats to Traditions and Culture*
  - *Leaving the "Third World": Is Consumerism Transforming China* pp. 131-143, 151-153

February 10  Pre-trip seminar: Communication Issues in Hong Kong/China
- Required readings:
  - *Strategic Interaction, Cultural Co-orientation, and Press Freedom in Hong Kong* pp. 1-8
  - *Changing Media, Changing China* pp.1-15
  - News articles of your choice
- In-class Reading Club: (sign up for one of the following on Moodle)
  - *Echoslamming: How Incivility Interacts With Cyberbalkanization on Social Media in Hong Kong* pp. 307-312, 319-321
  - *Hong Kong’s Protests Could Be Another Social Media Revolution That Ends in Failure*
  - *WeChat Use Among Chinese College Students: Exploring Gratifications and Political Engagement in China*
- *The Other side of the Great Firewall*, Time 2015

**February 17** No class (President’s Day)
- Required readings:
  - *Understanding Contemporary China [Hong Kong]* pp. 179-200
  - *Mall City: Hong Kong’s Dreamworlds of Consumption* pp. 1-19, 23-32, 65-70, 83-89, 93-105
  - News articles of your choice

**February 24** Pre-trip seminar: Hong Kong as a Global City
- Required readings:
  - *Global Cities* pp.1-21, 25-32
  - News articles of your choice
- In-class Reading Club (sign up for one of the following on Moodle):
  - *Brand Hong Kong As a World City*
  - *Toward a New Hong Kong*
  - *Hong Kong’s Unique Combinations*
  - *How to Evade States and Slip Past Borders: Lessons from Traders, Overstayers, and Asylum Seekers in Hong Kong and China*

**March 2** Pre-trip seminar: Socio-cultural Issues in Hong Kong
- Required readings:
  - *The Hong Kong Hybrid*
  - Video: *Hong Kong Protests: A City’s Identity Crisis* (BBC, 2019)
  - News articles of your choice
- In-class Reading Club (sign up for one of the following on Moodle):
  - *Hong Kong People Encountering the Nation in South China*
  - *How American, Chinese, and Hong Kong University Students Understand "Belonging to a Nation"*
  - *Hong Kong Mobile: Redefining the Hong Konger?*
  - *Teenage vs. Super Power: Joshua Wong* (Netfix)
- Speaker: Linus Chan

**March 9** Pre-trip seminar: Macau
- Required Readings:
  - *Portuguese Maritime Expansion and the State of Aomen: How Macau Came into Being*
  - *Toward a Macauan Identity*
  - News articles of your choice
- Speaker: Lauren Collins

**March 12** (Thu)
- Departure from U.S.

**March 13** (Fri)
- Arrival in Guangzhou - China Air flight (11:30 AM)
- Lecture by Guangzhou University of Foreign Studies faculty: The Characteristics of Guangzhou as a Global City and Guangzhou's Role in the Development of China
- Intercultural activities with Guangzhou University of Foreign Studies students

**March 14** (Sat)
- Site visits in Guangzhou
- Afternoon: Travel from Guangzhou to Shenzhen
- Site visits in Shenzhen

**March 15** (Sunday)
- Site visits in Shenzhen

**March 16** (Monday)
- Cross the border and travel to Hong Kong by train
- Risk-mitigation orientation by HKAC
- Site visits in Hong Kong

**March 17** (Tue)
- Lecture and Discussion: Hong Kong History, Culture, and Society
- Conversation with a local group
- Site Visit
- Group exploration

**March 18** (Wed)
- Lecture and Discussion: Political Discourses and Hong Kong/China Relations
- Conversation with a local group
- Site visit
- Group exploration

**March 19** (Thu)
- Lecture and Discussion: Development in South China and the Belt and Road Initiative
- Conversation with a local group
- Site visit
- Group exploration

**March 20** (Fri)
- Travel to Macau
- Explore the city with University of Macau students
- Cross the border to Zhuhai, China

**March 21** (Sat)
- Travel from Zhuhai to Guangzhou by road transportation with a local guide
- Site visit
March 22 (Sun)
- Departure for U.S. from Guangzhou airport (9:35 AM)
- Arrive in Missoula

March 23 (seminar for on-campus students only)
- Recorded lecture and discussion: Development in Pearl River Delta Region and the role South China in the Belt and Road Initiative
- Readings recommended by on-site speaker

March 30 (seminar for on-campus students only)
- Recorded lecture and discussion: The Characteristics of Guangzhou as a Global City and Chinese Communication
- Readings recommended by on-site speaker

April 6 (seminar for on-campus students only)
- Recorded lecture and discussion: Political Discourses and Hong Kong/China Relations
- Readings recommended by on-site speaker

April 13 (seminar for on-campus students only)
- Recorded lecture and discussion: Hong Kong Social Movements
- Readings recommended by on-site speaker

April 20
- Consultation on final paper. Sign up for a one-on-one meeting with the instructor.

April 27
- Paper due and presentations

Readings

Selections from a variety of journals and the following books will be posted on Moodle:
- *A Landscape of Travel: The Work of Tourism in Rural Ethnic China* by Jenny Chio (2014)
- *Global Cities: Urban Environments in Los Angeles, Hong Kong, and China* by Robert Gottlieb and Simon Ng (2017)
- *Mall City: Hong Kong’s Dreamworlds of Consumption* edited by Stefan Al (2016)
• *The Internet, Social Media, and a Changing China*, edited by Jacques deLisle, Avery Goldstein, Guobin Yang (2016).

**Assignments**

- Pre-trip course preparation (readings, facilitated discussions, and orientations) 25%
- On-site participation and professionalism 25% (trip participants only)
- Contribution to discussions during and after on-site lectures and facilitated conversations with selected groups 25% (trip participants only)
- Seminar participation 25% (on-campus students only)
- Mid-term reading report 25% (on-campus students only)
- Final paper and presentation 25%

**Grades**

A=90-100%  B=80-89%  C=70-79%  D=60-69%  F=59% or below

**Course Policies**

- To participate in the trip to Hong Kong, Macau, and China, you must complete the pre-trip class sessions and orientations during the spring semester.
- You are responsible for adhering to trip schedule and submitting your assignments on time. Tardiness, except for sickness, will receive deduction on the grade earned for the assignment or participation.
- Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult [http://www.umt.edu/disability](http://www.umt.edu/disability).
- You should be aware that as a student at the University of Montana, you must practice academic honesty and are bound by the following Code of Academic Conduct: [http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php](http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php)

As the code explains, academic misconduct includes plagiarism, cheating, and deliberate interference with the work of others. It is the intellectual equivalent of fraud—a crime against the codes of the academy. *As an academic crime, plagiarism merits academic punishment, ranging from an F on the assignment or for the course, to suspension or expulsion from the University.*
• Adding, dropping, or changing grading option requires the instructor’s signature.
• The deadlines for adding/dropping and changing your grading option are posted on the Registrar’s Office website under Drop/Add Policy.
• As per departmental practice, you may not drop or change your grading option after the 45th instructional day except in the following situations: a) documentable accident or illness, b) no evaluation record for the course, c) documentable family/personal emergency, and d) documentable change in employment schedule that prevents completion of course.