

# **GEOG3413 Urban development and evolution in Hong Kong (6 Credits)**

**Course Teacher: Dr Michael W H Chan**

## **Objectives**

This course introduces the underlying factors and processes, both natural and cultural, of early and current urban development of Hong Kong.

## **Course Synopsis**

As Hong Kong is our home city, yet most of us do not fully understand how our city has been developed and shaped into its present form. This course introduces the underlying factors and processes on the urban development of Hong Kong. It focuses on the evolution of urban development and associated land administration in Hong Kong, with references in different areas like: Evolution of city development, topography, praya (waterfront) evolution, reclamation, compact city development mode and social life. Current issues like town planning process the “invisible hands” in market, urban development and evolution, Modernity vs Post-modernism, Government policies and the Developer Hegemony also known as 地產霸權) are discussed. This course appeals to students with a background in different arts, social sciences or science disciplines.

## **Lecture Topics**

- The choice of Hong Kong as the first British colony in China
- The early urban development patterns and its effects to modern urban setting
- Topography and the town planning
- Government, military, land developers, and the community sector
- Urban development evolutions and the compact urban development
- Praya development and future trends

## **Fieldwork**

Fieldwork on selected districts of Hong Kong and Kowloon urban areas will be conducted during the reading week.

## **Assessment**

Examination (two hours) 50%; Coursework 50% (consists of essay and group project).

## **Learning Outcomes**

Knowledge:

- An introduction to the urban evolution of Hong Kong
- An understanding of the Hong Kong urban development from historical, social, political and topographical perspectives
- An awareness of the wide spectrum of urban development trends in Hong Kong

Skills:

- Ability to think critically on Hong Kong's urban development
- Analysis and interpretation skills on primarily research materials and archives
- Skills in teamwork techniques, presentation, critical reading and writing

## **Recommended Reading List**

1. French, H. & Lee, Y. (2013) *Patterns of Living – Hong Kong's High Rise Communities*. Hong Kong: New Talent Press.
2. Ho, P. Y. (2004). *Challenges for an evolving city: 160 years of port and land development of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: The Commercial Press.
3. Knox, P. & Pinch, S. (2006). *Urban social geography: An introduction (6<sup>th</sup> edition)*. Essex: Pearson Education Limited.
4. Poon, A. (2010). *Land and the ruling class in Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Enrich Publishing.
5. Townsend, A. M. (2013) *Smart Cities: Big Data, Civic Hackers, and the Quest for a New Utopia*. New York: The Grayhawk Agency.
6. Xue, C. Q. L. (2014) *Contextualizing modernity: Hong Kong Architecture 1946-2011*. Hong Kong: The Commercial Press.