

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**HKU SPACE Community College**

**Associate Degree Programmes 2019-20**  
**Course Document**

**Course Title: From A Barren Rock to Asia's World City:  
A History of Modern Hong Kong**

Course Code:	C	C	A	H	4	0	1	0
QF Level:	4							
Contact Hours:	36 Hours							

**Aims and Objective**

This course will give students a basic understanding of the historical survey of Hong Kong from 1839 to the present. Special attention will also be paid to its relationship with China and Britain, and the making of Hong Kong identity.

This course will be divided into three main parts. The first part will examine the history of Hong Kong from 1839 to 1941. Attention will be drawn to the establishment of the crown colony, the management of Chinese population, and Hong Kong's relationship with China. The second part will examine the history of Hong Kong from 1941 to 1997. Emphasis will be given to the occupation of Hong Kong, the rise of Hong Kong identity in the 1960s, the "Hong Kong Question" and the countdown to 1997. The final part will examine Hong Kong after the handover in 1997. Attention will be drawn to the opportunities and challenges of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

By the end of the course it is expected that students will gain enhanced understanding of the forces that have shaped the city in which they live, as well as different interpretations concerning major historical events in Hong Kong.

**Intended Learning Outcomes of the Course**

On completion of the course, students should be able to

- ILO1. examine Hong Kong's development from 1839 to the present;
- ILO2. produce critical analyses of controversial issues and events through self-directed learning;
- ILO3. evaluate the impact of the local people, British colonial rule and Chinese nationalism on Hong Kong's political, economic and social developments;
- ILO4. connect the past and present through first-hand observations of various Hong Kong historical landmarks.

**Syllabus**

1. Hong Kong before 1839 and The Making of a British Colony, 1839-1880s
  - (i) Hong Kong in the Imperial China
  - (ii) The Opium War and the ceding of Hong Kong to Britain
  - (iii) The establishment of Victoria City
  - (iv) The acquisition of Kowloon
  - (v) Segregation and the rise of local elites
2. The Chinese under British Colonial Rule, 1880s-1900s
  - (i) Education policies
  - (ii) The 'Mui Tsai' debate
  - (iii) Public health and the Plagues in 1894
  - (iv) New Territories before and after the Acquisition

3. Hong Kong, 'The China Factor' (1900s-1930s) and 'The Japan Factor (1941-45)

- (i) The rise of Chinese nationalism
- (ii) Dissidents, refugees, and revolutionaries in Hong Kong
- (iii) Hong Kong's Role in the Republic of China
- (iv) Labor unrest, boycotts and strikes in the 1910s and the 1920s
- (v) The Second Sino-Japanese War and the occupation of Japan

4. Post-war Hong Kong, 1945-1949

- (i) The Young Plan
- (ii) Post War "Economic Miracle"

5. The Colony in Conflicts, 1950s-1960s

- (i) Hong Kong in the Cold War
- (ii) Social disturbances in the 1950s and 1960s

6. The Rise of the Hong Kongers, 1970s-1980s

- (i) MacLehose's social reforms
- (ii) The emergence of a local identity

7. Hong Kong in Transition, 1980s-1997

- (i) The Sino-British Negotiation and the Declaration
- (ii) The June Fourth Incident and its implication
- (iii) Hong Kong under the last governor

8. The Theory and Practice of 'One Country; Two Systems'

- (i) The search of a democratic government
- (ii) The making of an international financial centre
- (iii) The struggle of social equality in a world city
- (iv) The birth of New Hong Kongers?

**Assessment**

Type of Assessment (Weighting)	Description
<b>Continuous Assessment (100%)</b>	Group Discussion (30%)
	Individual Essay (20%)
	Group Project and a Reflection Report (40%)
	Individual Reflection Paper (10%)

**Pre-requisite(s)**

Nil

**Required and Recommended Reading**

References:

1. John M. Carroll, A Concise History of Hong Kong (Hong Kong University Press, 2013)
2. David Faure, ed. Hong Kong: A Reader in Social History (Oxford University Press, 2003)
3. Steve Tsang, A Modern History of Hong Kong (Hong Kong University Press, 2004)
4. Steve Tsang, ed. A Document History of Hong Kong: Government and Politics (Hong Kong University press, 1995)