

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Summer Institute Asia as the Global Future
Course Description and Assessment Methods

“In the same way that commentators refer to the 1900s as the “American century”, the 21st century may be seen as the time when Asia, led by China and India, comes into its own”.

- National Intelligence Council. Mapping the Global Future. Washington, 2005

FOSS4005 Asia as the global future (12 credits)

Course Aims

The Asia as the Global Future aims at providing a platform for students to engage in emerging Asia through participating in a four-week intensive study programme in different parts of Asia. This summer institute aims at enhancing students’ understanding of Asia and enriching their international learning experiences.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students would have:

- Understood major issues related to social, economic, political and cultural developments in selected Asian societies in the context of reemerging Asia;
- Examined critically major challenges that these societies are confronting;
- Appreciated the complexity of social, economic and political developments in selected Asian societies;
- Developed a better understanding of Asian Studies.

Course Description

The Summer Institute aims at enhancing students’ awareness of the importance of Asia in the globalizing world. Students spend four weeks in different parts of Asia like Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, South Korea and Singapore etc. By the end of these four weeks students will have gained a unique perspective on Asia through interacting with academics, government officials and community leaders and local people in selected Asian societies.

Course Details

The first two weeks are an intensive introduction to Asian Studies. HKU faculty as well as members of other universities, the diplomatic community and leading business people will be offering lectures on Northeast, Southeast, South and West Asia affairs as well as on issues that cut across these regions such as human rights, popular culture, and business and economic development. Over the first weekend students will go to Macau for a very different experience of a post-colonial Chinese city. These lectures will be bolstered by a series of fieldtrips designed to extend the work covered in the lectures as well as give students a chance to enjoy the rich social and cultural environment that exists in Hong Kong.

Over the next two weeks students will fly to Shanghai-Hangzhou, where they stay at Zhejiang University for a week. During this time a series of lectures on China’s domestic

development and its international challenges will be presented by local faculty, along with a series of site visits to various sites of academic and cultural interest. In the final week students will fly to Seoul where they will stay at Yonsei University. Students will have a series of lectures on South Korea's history, its political and economic modernisation and its social transformation. Students will also go on a series of site visits to local cultural sites and international factories.

Assessment

Two Reflective Journals (20%), Essay (30%), Examination (40%), Attendance (10%)

Each student will develop two reflective journals taking notes from the lectures and field trips at 1000 words each (20 percent). The essay at 3000-4000 words shall be developed based on the topics that are discussed during the programme (30 percent). At the conclusion of the four-week programme, students will also sit an exam (40 percent). The exam will be the usual end of course exam, which will be based on lecture notes and the readings. The exam, reflective journals and essay, along with an attendance grade (10 percent) will form the basis for evaluating individual student performances.

For the reflective journals, students will be expected to take detailed notes from all the lectures as well as provide summaries of the subsequent Q&A sessions. Students will also be expected to include reports of their trips to the various field sites. The reflective journals may be supplemented with appendices of either image or audio files taken during the course. They will be reviewed twice during the programme to ensure that each student is keeping an adequate record. This assessment will ensure that the core teaching staffs are aware of individual proficiencies within the group.

The essay will be a standard social sciences essay (3,000-4,000 words), with the topics chosen from the discussion topics. Plagiarism results in an automatic "fail" grade being awarded for that particular item and, if serious enough, may result in the student failing the course. For this reason all students are urged to read "What is Plagiarism?" via www.hku.hk/student/plagiarism, and refer to the citation guideline via www3.hku.hk/philodep/ugrad/citation.php.

The examination will be the usual end of course exam, which will be based on lecture notes and the readings.

Students will be continuously assessed on their attendance. Attendance is mandatory at all lectures and field visits, unless prior approval has been given. Attendance also includes participation in the lectures and site visits (asking questions/raising issues).

Due Dates

Reflective Journal I: July 2, 2009 Thursday (HK Time)

Reflective Journal II: July 17, 2009 Friday (HK Time)

Essay: August 20, 2009 Thursday (HK Time) (*Essay shall be submitted in softcopy to the Mentors and cc to sumins@hku.hk)

May 6, 2009