Course description

This short one-credit course, intended for students participating in the UST-UVa Jefferson Global Seminar, provides an overview of the history, economics, politics, and society of Hong Kong and an assessment of the major issues facing the city in the years ahead.

Course requirements

The course is offered on a graded basis for HKUST students, and on either a graded or pass-fail (i.e., credit-no-credit) basis for UVa students. However, the course requirements are identical for all students taking the course.

Attendance and active participation in class will be a major requirement of the course, accounting for 20% of the total grade. Students will also be expected to join a team project, which will account for the remaining 80% of the grade. Each team will consist of 4-6 students from different backgrounds. Assignments to the teams will be made early in the course.

The number and nature of the team projects will depend on the number of students enrolled in the class. The projects will be drawn from the list below:

- Participation in a debate, from a list of topics to be assigned by the instructor.
- Analysis of the significance of the people, event, or building shown in a historical photograph, to be provided by the instructor.
- Research on a topic provided by the instructor, resulting in both a written product and an oral presentation in class to share the teams' insights and conclusions with other students.

Course schedule
The course will meet eight times between June 27 and July 26. Each class meeting will last for around 95 minutes, with the dates, times, and classroom to be determined. Guest speakers will participate in several of the class sessions. In addition to the readings from the assigned text, contemporary newspaper or journal articles will be distributed for many of the class topics.

1. The evolution of Hong Kong during China’s decay and disorder, 1860-1978
   Reading: Steve Tsang, *A Modern History of Hong Kong*, Parts I-II.
2. The evolution of Hong Kong during China’s reform and renaissance, 1978-1997
   Reading: Steve Tsang, *A Modern History of Hong Kong*, Parts III-IV.
3. The politics of Hong Kong: the debate over Hong Kong’s political structure and electoral system
4. Hong Kong society: growing socio-economic tensions and cleavages and the growth of a distinctive Hong Kong identity
5. Hong Kong’s economy, from trading entrepot to manufacturing center to financial center, 1841-the present
6. Looking ahead: The challenges and opportunities confronting “Asia’s World City”
7. Debates and student presentations
8. Debates and student presentations

**Preparation**

Students should read Steve Tsang, *A Modern History of Hong Kong*, before the beginning of the course. The book should be available in the bookstores at both the University of Virginia and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, as well as through the usual on-line outlets. Students should also view the documentary film, “The Hong Kong Story (History of Hong Kong 1841-1997),” available on YouTube, before their arrival in Hong Kong.