

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Public and International Affairs
with effect from Semester A 2024/2025**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title:	<u>Understanding the Modern Metropolis</u>
Course Code:	<u>PIA5500</u>
Course Duration:	<u>One Semester</u>
Credit Units:	<u>3</u>
Level:	<u>P5</u>
Medium of Instruction:	<u>English</u>
Medium of Assessment:	<u>English</u>
Prerequisites: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	<u>None</u>
Precursors: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	<u>None</u>
Equivalent Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	<u>POL5500 Understanding the Modern Metropolis</u>
Exclusive Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	<u>None</u>

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims to provide the general theoretical backcloth for the programme, to offer a map of the relevant academic literature for prospective urban managers and an understanding of the key drivers of urbanization and urban change in and beyond Asia. It will explore the key contributors to our theoretical and conceptual understanding of the contemporary city, the notable paradigm shifts in urban theory and different disciplinary perspectives on urbanism and urbanization. In doing so, the course will engage with the following topics: what is a city?; urbanization and demography; cities, the global and the local; cities and economic competitiveness; social justice, inequality and the differentiated city; shifting geographies of urbanization and cities in particular regions; urban change and conflict; city futures and sustainability. Particular attention will be given to Asian urbanization and the extent to which our current theoretical understanding of urban processes and urbanization remains inappropriately western-centric.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Identify and critique the key theoretical perspectives on cities	30%	✓		
2.	Summarise the key drivers of contemporary urban change	30%	✓		
3.	Judge the relevance of different theoretical perspectives to contemporary urban problems and issues	20%	✓		
4.	Present your ideas on urbanization systematically and critically, both in verbal and written forms	20%		✓	
		100%			

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

(LTAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

LTA	Brief Description	CILO No.						Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4			
Lectures	To provide both navigational and inspirational input. To excite and interest you in the key theoretical debates on urbanism and urban change and to demonstrate your relevance to the management of cities.	✓	✓					2 hours per week
Presentation and discussion	Focused presentation and discussion on key issues / reading to deepen understanding of academic literature and to enhance communication skills.	✓	✓	✓	✓			1 hours every week
Essay Writing	to develop and refine ability in integrating information, analytical and communication skills	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Readings	close reading of one key article or book chapter per week to broaden understanding of the academic and policy debates-with supplementary reading as appropriate.	✓	✓	✓				

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.						Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4				
Continuous Assessment: 100 %								
Class presentation / discussant	✓	✓	✓	✓			20%	
Course essays (3 essays of different lengths with a total of 5000 words)	✓	✓	✓				70%	
In-Class Test	✓	✓	✓				10%	
No Examination								
							100%	

Note:

If a course has both coursework and examination components, students are required to pass BOTH the coursework assessment AND the examination before they can be awarded an overall passing grade of the course.

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
Class presentation / discussant	Present ideas on urbanization systematically and critically, both in verbal and written forms	Demonstrating excellent ability in presenting ideas on urbanization systematically and critically, both in verbal and written forms	Demonstrating good ability in presenting ideas on urbanization systematically and critically, both in verbal and written forms	Demonstrating adequate ability in presenting ideas on urbanization systematically and critically, both in verbal and written forms	Partial but inadequate ability in presenting ideas on urbanization systematically and critically, both in verbal and written forms	Little evidence of ability in presenting ideas on urbanization systematically and critically, both in verbal and written forms
Course essay	Demonstrating critical understanding of urban theory and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges	Demonstrating comprehensive and critical understanding of urban theory and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges	Demonstrating good critical understanding of urban theory and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges	Demonstrating adequate critical understanding of urban theory and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges	Partial but inadequate critical understanding of urban theory and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges	Little evidence of critical understanding of course content or its relevance to urban management issues and challenges
Class Quiz	Summarise the key drivers of contemporary urban change and judge the relevance of different theoretical perspectives to contemporary urban problems and issues	Demonstrating excellent ability to summarise the key drivers of contemporary urban change and judge the relevance of different theoretical perspectives to contemporary urban problems and issues	Demonstrating good ability to summarise the key drivers of contemporary urban change and judge the relevance of different theoretical perspectives to contemporary urban problems and issues	Demonstrating adequate ability to summarise the key drivers of contemporary urban change and judge the relevance of different theoretical perspectives to contemporary urban problems and issues	Demonstrating partial but inadequate ability to Summarise the key drivers of contemporary urban change and judge the relevance of different theoretical perspectives to contemporary urban problems and issues	Little evidence of ability to summarise the key drivers of contemporary urban change and judge the relevance of different theoretical perspectives to contemporary urban problems and issues

Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
Class presentation / discussant	Present ideas on urbanization systematically and critically, both in verbal and written forms	Demonstrating excellent ability in presenting ideas on urbanization systematically and critically, both in verbal and written forms	Demonstrating good ability in presenting ideas on urbanization systematically and critically, both in verbal and written forms	Demonstrating adequate ability in presenting ideas on urbanization systematically and critically, both in verbal and written forms	Little evidence of ability in presenting ideas on urbanization systematically and critically, both in verbal and written forms
Course essay	Demonstrating critical understanding of urban theory and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges	Demonstrating comprehensive and critical understanding of urban theory and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges	Demonstrating good critical understanding of urban theory and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges	Demonstrating adequate critical understanding of urban theory and its relevance to urban management issues and challenges	Little evidence of critical understanding of course content or its relevance to urban management issues and challenges
Class Quiz	Summarise the key drivers of contemporary urban change and judge the relevance of different theoretical perspectives to contemporary urban problems and issues	Demonstrating excellent ability to summarise the key drivers of contemporary urban change and judge the relevance of different theoretical perspectives to contemporary urban problems and issues	Demonstrating good ability to summarise the key drivers of contemporary urban change and judge the relevance of different theoretical perspectives to contemporary urban problems and issues	Demonstrating adequate ability to summarise the key drivers of contemporary urban change and judge the relevance of different theoretical perspectives to contemporary urban problems and issues	Little evidence of ability to summarise the key drivers of contemporary urban change and judge the relevance of different theoretical perspectives to contemporary urban problems and issues

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Urban theory; Marx; Weber; Chicago School; structuralism; demography; urban-rural migration; segregation; polarisation; stratification; global cities; deindustrialisation; post-industrialism; postmodernism; network society; managerialism

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

1. Bridge, G., & Watson, S. (Eds.). (2010). *The Blackwell city reader*. John Wiley.
2. Bridge, G., & Watson, S. (Eds.). (2011). *The new Blackwell companion to the city*. John Wiley.
3. *City* (2009) Special Issue: Cities for People, not for Profit, 13,2-3
4. Dear, M., & Dishman, J. D. (Eds.). (2001). *From Chicago to LA: Making sense of urban theory*. Sage.
5. Graham, S. (2011). *Cities under siege: The new military urbanism*. Verso Books.
6. Hannigan, J. (2013). *Fantasy city: Pleasure and profit in the postmodern metropolis*. Routledge.
7. *Nature* (2010) Science and the City) Special Issue
8. Ma, L.J.C. & F. Wu (2013) (Eds.) *Restructuring the Chinese City: Changing Society, Economy and Space*, Oxford: Routledge,
9. Neuwirth, R. (2005). *Shadow cities: a billion squatters, a new urban world* (pp. 309-316). New York: Routledge.
10. Parker, S. (2003). *Urban theory and the urban experience: encountering the city*. Routledge.
11. Roy, A. (2009). The 21st-century metropolis: new geographies of theory. *Regional Studies*, 43(6), 819-830.
12. Sassen, S. (2000). New frontiers facing urban sociology at the Millennium. *The British journal of sociology*, 51(1), 143-159.
13. Wu, Weiping (2013) *The Chinese City*, London: Routledge

2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

1. Key Journals

1. International Journal of Urban and Regional Research
2. Urban Studies
3. Urban Geography
4. Environment and Planning
5. City