CHES5002B Chinese Studies Field Trip
Issues in Contemporary China Stream

2018-2019, Term 2
Taiwan field trip, 10-15 December 2018

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Course description
This course looks at various aspects of contemporary Taiwanese politics, society and cross-strait/external relations through readings, class discussion, written assignments and a six-day field trip to Taiwan. This is a Term 2 course, but learning activities will begin in Term 1 and the field trip will take place after the end of Term 1, from 10-15 December inclusive.

Learning outcomes
Upon completion of the course, students should have:
- gained a deeper understanding of issues relating to Taiwanese politics, society and cross-strait/external relations;
- developed skills in critical reading, writing, and field research.

Learning activities
The course will be delivered through readings, class discussions, and assignments carried out before, during and after the field trip. Informal optional discussions over lunch will be arranged in Term 1.

Students taking this course are expected to attend the following sessions:
- **Wednesday 5 September** (week 1), 10.30-11.15 (in YIA 1118): Introductory session to explain requirements, after which students will be expected to decide whether to register for the field trip.
- **Wednesday 24 October** 10.30-12.15 (venue TBC): Class discussion of issues in Taiwanese politics, society and external relations, to support reading report and book review, and help prepare for the field trip.
- **Late November**: pre-field trip administrative briefing (details to be announced).

Trip itinerary and visa information
Full details of the programme will be confirmed during the course of Term 1. The field trip will consist of discussions with academics, journalists and other opinion formers in Taiwan, visits to political parties, NGOs and other organisations, and some time for students to do their own research to deepen their understanding of the issues. Locations visited will include Taipei and Tainan and/or Gaoxiong. All students enrolled on the course are expected to participate fully in the field trip programme.

It is students’ own responsibility to make sure that they have a valid passport (pay attention to validity requirement for visa application) and visa/entry permit for entering Taiwan. Failure to obtain the appropriate visa will mean that students are unable to complete this course.

- Local students and non-local students from mainland China should refer to the website of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (Bureau of Hong Kong Affairs) at [https://www.teco-hk.org/cp.aspx?n=23B1A3A6BA521F00](https://www.teco-hk.org/cp.aspx?n=23B1A3A6BA521F00) for details of entry permit (入台證) application.
● Other non-local students should visit the website of Bureau of Consular Affairs at https://www.boca.gov.tw/mp-2.htm to check whether they need to apply for a visitor visa (簽證) and application details.

While the Centre for China Studies supports some of the expenses for this trip, students will be asked to share a part of the cost. We estimate that this extra cost will be around HK$4,000 per person. More details will follow after the exact number of students is confirmed.

Assessment will be based on four elements:
1. (20%) Reading report of minimum 1,200 words on the required readings (listed below). This should synthesise and discuss the issues and arguments of the readings in a critical way. Deadline Friday 2 Nov.
2. (20%) Review of 800 words of any one book on the course bibliography (below). Deadline Friday 23 Nov.
3. (20%) Participation in field trip discussions and learning activities throughout the course. Trip participation will be evaluated according to students’ performance in punctuality, team spirit, and contribution to questions and discussions.
4. (40%) A written field trip research report (up to 3,000 words). Deadline Friday 1 Feb. 2019.

The field trip research report should outline research findings and report on what was learned during the field trip. The report should use the material from the required readings, book review and class discussions in Term 1 as a framework, and should focus on specific questions or issues chosen by the student relating to Taiwanese politics, society or external relations. This focus should be explained clearly at the start of the report, which should follow the basic requirements of an academic essay, with proper references where necessary. Students should take the initiative to discuss their thinking with the lecturer as necessary, including during the field trip. An initial outline of the report should be sent to the lecturer by Friday 7 December for discussion during the field trip. Good outlines will contribute to good grades for the written field trip report.

All written assignments should include a word count and be submitted by email and in hard copy with signed veriguide receipt to Dr. Summers’ mailbox, 11/F YIA, by 6pm on the day on which they are due. For Veriguide submission, assignment numbers should follow the order in the list above (e.g. book review is assignment number 2). Late submission will be penalised. Students may refer to the grade descriptors for MA in Chinese Studies for further indications of grading criteria (available on Blackboard or from the TA).

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of the policies, regulations and procedures.

Required readings
**Books for review and additional reading**

- Scott L. Kastner. *Political Conflict and Economic Interdependence across the Taiwan Strait and Beyond.* Stanford, 2009.