

CHES5002B – Chinese Studies Field Trip (Issues in Contemporary China Stream)

Term 2, 2021-2022

Lecturers: Tim Summers and Fion So

Teaching Assistant: Wen Mingrui

Course description

This course aims to deepen understanding of current developments across the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) through field visits, lectures, and discussions. There will be a particular focus on developments in the financial sector.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, students should have developed a good understanding of current trends in the GBA, in particular in the financial sector, and improved their ability to discuss and explain these through written reports.

Learning activities

The course will cover two broad themes:

- (1) Policy debates and issues around the future of the GBA, including some of the main themes of the policy discussions, the opportunities identified by different actors (government at different levels, businesses, education institutions, etc) and the challenges faced (political, economic, institutional).
- (2) Development of the financial sector within the GBA, including the roles of Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Guangzhou and the development of financial connectivity in the GBA. Students will explore cross-border financial initiatives such as Stock Connect and Green Bond, both in theory and by looking at real market practices.

The course will consist of a total of six days of field trips and activities across the GBA, supplemented by readings, lectures and discussions throughout Term 2. The activities will include visits to institutions and organisations involved in the development of policy and practice across the GBA, for example government or other public bodies, universities or research institutes, and corporations or business associations. There will be a particular focus on organisations involved in the financial sector.

Visits in Shenzhen and Guangzhou will most likely be organised in four days of intensive activity immediately after the end of Term 2 (25-28 April, TBC), assuming that quarantine-free two-way travel between Hong Kong and Guangdong is possible (the back-up plan will involve online meetings and discussion). Visits in Hong Kong will be organised earlier during Term 2 (after the Chinese New Year break).

Two introductory lecture and discussion sessions will be arranged in the first month of term (before the Chinese New Year break) to introduce some of the main questions to be addressed and to help students prepare for assignments and field trip activities. The first will give a general introduction to the GBA (Tim Summers), while the second will focus on the financial sector (Fion So).

A detailed briefing on the field trip will be organised at the end of Term 1 to help students decide whether to register for this course in Term 2.

Important note: Students will be responsible for ensuring that they have a valid visa or entry permit for Guangdong in order to take this course. CCS will subsidise some of the costs of the field trip, but students will be asked to contribute financially towards travel and accommodation costs for the days in Guangzhou and Shenzhen (students with financial constraints who wish to take the course should discuss these with Prof. Summers).

Assessment

There will be three elements to assessment for this course (each lecturer will be responsible for 50% of the grading):

1. A 2,000-word review of current policy and/or academic discussions about the GBA, demonstrating substantial reading on the topic, to be completed in the first half of Term 2 (30%).
2. A 3,000-word final report on what students have learned through the field trip activities and their wider reading and research on the GBA (50%). This can focus their final report on one or more of the themes of the course.
3. Active participation in the course, in particular the field trip activities (20%).

Further details of the assessment criteria will be posted on Blackboard at the start of Term 2.

Students should familiarize themselves with University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work and the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details are 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.

Readings

All students should read the 2019 Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the following introductory articles or books:

- Linda Chelan Li and Man-tak Kwok (2019). Unpacking the Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area: A Mechanism for Reform. *China and the World: Ancient and Modern Silk Road* 2(2), 1-20
- Eddie C.M. Hui, Xun Li, Tingting Chen, Wei Lang (2020). Deciphering the spatial structure of China's megacity region: A new bay area – The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in the making. *Cities* 105, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2018.10.011>

- Ho Lok Sang (2019). Greater Bay Area: a market-driven plan to enhance quality of life and development. *Asian Education and Development Studies* 9(3), 287-295
- Jingyan Fu & Artie W. Ng (2020). Green Finance Reform and Innovation for Sustainable Development of the Greater Bay Area: Towards an Ecosystem for Sustainability. In J. Fu & A.W. Ng (eds), *Sustainable Energy and Green Finance for a Low-Carbon Economy* (Springer).
- Shiping Guo, Cheng Li, Jie Ji & Genzhong Zhao, eds (2021) *Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area: Planning And Global Positioning*. Singapore: World Scientific.
- Shusong Ba, ed. (2019). *Mutual Market Connectivity and Hong Kong Market Innovations for New Economy Financing* (Hong Kong Exchange and Clearing Limited).
- Shusong Ba, ed. (2019) *Bond Connect Scheme: New Strategy for Internationalization of China's Bond Market* (Hong Kong Exchange and Clearing Limited).

A further bibliography and additional primary source material on issues such as Wealth Management Connect will be posted on Blackboard at the start of the course. Students are encouraged to consult additional literature to supplement field trip activities and their research for their final report.