Globalization and Diaspora

This course examines the history of “globalization” by focusing on Hong Kong’s dynamic cultural, political, and economic transformation since its incorporation into the global capitalist economy in the 19th century. Specifically, we will investigate the links between the pursuit of global markets by Euro-American and Japanese colonial powers and the dispersal and circulation of migrants who labor and live in diaspora. Themes and topics include: the Opium Wars and British colonialism; the world system; the global division of labor; transnational migration; community formation; export-processing zones; Filipina domestic workers, and the racialized, gendered and sexualized economy; the Umbrella Revolution and anti-globalization movements.

Grading Rubric
Short Paper 1 – 25%
Short Paper 2 – 25%
Weekly Journal – 25%
Presentation – 25%

Outline of weekly topics and excursions
Week One:
Monday: Introduction
Tuesday: Excursion to Hong Kong Museum of History & Maritime Museum
Wednesday: The Age of Empire and the World System
Thursday: Excursion to Tai O Fishing Village

Week Two:
Monday: Colonial Modernity
Tuesday: Excursion to Sun Yat Sen Trail and Museum and Rednaxela Terrace
Wednesday: Anticolonial Nationalism
Thursday: Excursion to Macau

Week Three:
Monday: The Age of Decolonization
Tuesday: Excursion to Hong Kong Heritage Museum & Para Site Art Gallery
Wednesday: Cold War Militarism and War Economies
Thursday: The IMF, World Bank, and the United Nations; Excursion to Jewish Community Center

Week Four:
Monday: Excursion to Chunking Mansions Tour
Tuesday: The Emergence of Global Cities
Wednesday: Walking Tour of Shen Zhen (possible factory tour)
Thursday: Precarious Labor  
Sunday: Central Station on Sunday & Open Doors Domestic Workers “Tour”

Week Five:  
Monday: Queer Diasporas and Public Culture  
Tuesday: Excursion to & Asia Art Archive (Sheung Wan) and Videotage (Art Gallery in Kowloon)  
Wednesday: Democracy Movements  
Thursday: Excursion to Tiananmen Museum

**Selected Readings:**


