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Topical Study in Urbanism
'Modernist Landscapes'

INSTRUCTORS
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Tuesdays 14:30 – 17:15
Zone F, LSK Building

ISSUE

This course examines the key intellectual currents and seminal projects that underpin the theories and practices of contemporary landscape design and how it relates to varied built environment disciplines. The course begins by exploring the professionalization of landscape architecture in Europe and America at the turn of the 20th century, alongside emergent design thinking in diverse geopolitical contexts both within and outside the "West." The course also considers the various ways in which the notion of "landscapes" has been used across different fields, including architecture, planning, urban design and conservation, as well as in geography, anthropology, and environmental humanities.

IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY

The course examines the role of landscape design and its connections to other built environment disciplines. This exploration fosters an awareness of the significance of interdisciplinary thinking, which is increasingly crucial for addressing environmental challenges in the 21st century. Through in-depth discussion and debates on selected case studies of a variety of landscape projects, students will learn to contextualize these cases within broader historical, socio-cultural and ecological frameworks, as well as the transnational production of design knowledge across different geographical locations.

This course aligns with the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN Habitat's Urban Agenda, emphasizing cross-disciplinary approaches to tackle today's pressing urban issues. Course assignments are designed to create meaningful connections between the SDGs with contemporary design practice in Hong Kong, Mainland China, and the international context.

METHODS

LECTURES
Lectures in the first half of the course explore various interpretations of "landscapes" and the development of landscape architecture as a modern design discipline in the 20th century. The second half addresses emergent thematical issues in environmental design and methodological approaches to studying landscapes, architecture, planning, and the built environment. To deepen understanding of the lecture content, each student will generate a short response after each lecture that will form the basis of discussion in the following week.

FIELD TRIP
A mandatory field trip to a site in Hong Kong's New Territories will be organized during the semester. Insights gained from the trip will inform Assignment 3.

ASSIGNMENT
Course assignments are designed to familiarize students with seminal works in landscape design while contextualizing these works within broader historical and ecological frameworks. They will also help students to develop analytical and communication skills through discussions, debates, and writing. \

DELIVERABLES
Refer to separate assignment briefs for details.

Assignment 1_Weekly Short Response to Lecture
Each week, students will generate a short, 1-2 sentence response to the lecture topic to contextualize their learning. The responses will form the basis for the discussion in the following week.

Assignment 2_ Case Study Presentation
Working in pairs, students will research on a case study of contemporary landscape design which they
will present in class for discussion.

Assignment 3_ Environmental Design Archiving Project
Students will participate in generating research materials for a collective environmental archive
centering on a selected site in Hong Kong.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Become familiar with the key intellectual currents and seminal works in landscape design in the
  20th century.

- Cultivate a critical awareness of the complex and interconnected forces that shape natural and
  human-made landscapes across various geographical and cultural contexts.

- Understand the fundamentals of scholarly research and learn how to analyze diverse source
  materials for academic writing.

- Enhance the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively with colleagues through
  presentations, debates, and discussions.

- Reflect on the personal and professional ethics in design practice.

ASSESSMENT SCHEME

1_Weekly Short Responses	20%
2_Case Study Presentation	40%
3_Environmental Design Archival Project	40%
Attendance and In-class Participation	15%

Total: 100%

COURSE FORMAT

Teaching Days
Students must attend for F2F teaching during these teaching hours.
Teaching Day: 7/1, 14/1, 21/1, 28/1, 4/2, 11/2, 18/2, 25/2, 11/3, 18/3, 25/3, 1/4, 8/4, 11/4
Teaching Venue: LSK Building, Zone F

Student Study Effort
1. Class Contact: 40 hrs (lectures, tutorials, presentations, field trip)
2. Other Student Study Effort: 80 hrs (Self Study)

REQUIRED READINGS

Required readings to be provided at later date.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO STUDENTS

Expectations for Professional Conduct

The motto of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) is "Through learning and temperance to virtue". This motto places equal emphasis on the intellectual and moral education of students. In addition to pursuing academic excellence, students of CUHK are expected to maintain and uphold the highest standard of integrity and honesty in their academic and personal lives, respect the rights of others and abide by the law. More information on Postgraduate studies can be found in the PG Student Handbook. https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/

Attendance
Class attendance is required in all courses. For an excused absence, the instructor must be notified and presented with documentation of illness or personal matter. Please note: **Three (3)** or more unexcused absences may result in a failing grade for the course.

Academic Honesty
The Chinese University of Hong Kong places very high importance on honesty in academic work submitted by students and adopts a policy of zero tolerance on academic dishonesty

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 may be required to submit a statement that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

Third-Party Assistance
All intellectual work essential to the design project must be completed by the student and cannot, under any circumstance, be outsourced to a third party (including, but not limited to a company, consultant, alumni, and/or friend).

In the design studio context, students may utilize external resources, such as printing services for presentation materials, and/or laser cutting and 3D printing services for prototyping purposes. Use of such third-party services constitutes non-intellectual work done by others. It is only permitted with prior written consent from the studio tutor and acknowledgment of such work done by the third party.

Assistance from other students or friends for aspects of project production also constitutes non-intellectual work done by others; this is allowed only if declared and acknowledged in a written statement attached to any such work that has received assistance.

Under all circumstances, students must declare all work done by others by completing the school's designated form before assessment. This form must include a detailed explanation of the third party's identity (name and relationship to the student), when and how they were utilized, and the specific tasks they performed in the project. The completed form, signed by the student, must be endorsed by the tutor and presented during the final review. The school will collect and retain this form for record-keeping purposes.

Failure to follow this code of conduct may be considered a case of academic dishonesty, to be reviewed by a disciplinary board, and possible failure of the course.

Artificial Intelligence

Unless approved by the Programme or School Director, any use of AI tools such as ChatGPT or image generation tools (Midjourney) etc. is strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary action in accordance with university policy on academic honesty. Students may refer to the CUHK 'Use of Artificial Intelligence tools in Teaching, Learning and Assessments' – A Guide for Students.

GRADE DESCRIPTOR

Grade	Descriptor	Criteria	Points
A	Excellent	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.	4
A-	Very Good	Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.	3.7
B+	Good	Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.	3.3
B			3
B-			2.7
C+	Fair	Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.	2.3
C			2
C-			1.7
D+	Pass	Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.	1.3
D			1
F	Failure	Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.	0

Term 2: 6 January 2025 (Monday) – 17 April 2025 (Thursday)

WEEK 01		
07.01	**LECTURE 1**	Landscapes in the Modern Movement
WEEK 02		
14.01	**LECTURE 2**	Landscape Design and the Public Sphere
WEEK 03		
21.01	**LECTURE 3**	Ecological Thoughts in Environmental Design
WEEK 04		
28.01	**NO CLASS**	Chinese New Year
WEEK 05		
04.02	**LECTURE 4**	Methods Lesson 1: Cultural Landscapes Studies
WEEK 06		
11.02	**LECTURE 5**	Methods Lesson 2: Urban Political Ecology
WEEK 07		
22.02*	**FIELD TRIP**	No class on Feb 18. Full-day Field Trip to New Territories on 22.02 [TBD]
Week 08		
25.02.2025	**LECTURE 6**	Rural-Village Revitalization [Guest Lecture - TBD]
Week 09		
03.03.2025	**NO CLASS**	Reading Week
Week 10		
11.03.2025	**TUTORIALS**	Studio review week. Instructors arrange individual tutorials with students after their studio reviews between 11.03-25.03 [TBD]
Week 11		
18.03.2025	**LECTURE 7**	Palimpsest Landscapes
Week 12		
25.03.2025	**LECTURE 8**	Landscapes and Environmental Governance in China
Week 13		
01.04.2025	**PRESENTATIONS**	Presentation of Assignment 3
Week 14		
08.04.2025	**LECTURE 9**	Environmental Design in an Expanded Field
Week 15		
15.04.2025	**NO CLASS**	Studio review week
Week 16		
22.04.2025	**LECTURE 10**	Course Conclusion: Future Landscapes

Written Feedback to Students

Term: _____   **Grade:** _____

Course: _____   Date: _____

Assignment: _____   Student Name: _____

Studio Tutor: _____   Student ID: _____

Feedback from Studio Tutor:

Achievements:

Challenges:

建築中大 School of Architecture
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG