



This is an abridged sample syllabus. Information is subject to change. Full syllabus will be distributed to registered students when term begins.

ASIA_V 323 - History of the Cantonese Worlds

Dr. Clement Tong

This course examines the history, culture, languages, and identities of the multi-faceted Cantonese worlds, both in the context of Chinese history as well as that of the Cantonese diaspora. The goal is to help students better understand the worlds forged by those who have come to be identified as “Cantonese.” This course traces the construction of “Cantonese” as an identity and examines how Cantonese languages, beliefs, and practices—in short, culture—have at times become synonymous with “Chinese” or “Chineseness.” The course will also examine how the Cantonese worlds of Canton (Guangdong), Hong Kong, and Macau have helped shape the contours of modern China, and it will explore how the diasporic communities have both preserved and transformed what might be understood as “Cantonese.” world and its enduring legacy.

Mode of Delivery: In Person.

Sample Readings

Brindley, Erica, “Yue identity as armed resistance to the Han imperium”, *Ancient China and the Yue Perceptions and Identities on the Southern Frontier, c.400 BCE–50 CE* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015), pp. 221-241.

Faure, David, “Becoming Cantonese – the Ming Dynasty Transition”, In Tao Tao Liu and David Faure (eds.) *Unity and Diversity* (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 1996) pp. 37-50.

Yow, Cheun Hoe, “Patterns and Impacts – Guangdong and its different diasporic groups”, *Guangdong and Chinese Diaspora – The changing landscape of qiaoxiang* (London: Routledge, 2013) pp.18-37.

Tong, Clement Tsz Ming, “Cantonese as a Protest Language in Hong Kong – 1967, 2014, and 2019,” *The Politics of Language in Hong Kong* (New York: Routledge, 2024) pp.43-62.

Assignments

Reading Responses | 35%

Paper Proposal | 5%

Term Paper | 25%

Final Exam | 35%