

Department of English
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

ENGE3370 – Writing Hong Kong

Wednesdays 2:30pm – 4:15pm

Instructor: Ms. Collier NOGUES

Office Hours: regular hours TBD; or by appointment

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Description

This course focuses on the art of writing about Hong Kong. Through the use of writing prompts and readings in the genres of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction, the course introduces students to different approaches to writing about social and physical environments in Hong Kong. Class meetings will involve assigned readings of primary texts as well as critical essays useful for guiding our discussions, and coursework will include critical responses as well as creative writing in the genres of study. Students will be encouraged to consider issues such as genre, gender and language use in relation to readership, and through active participation in class discussion and exploration of actual environments, students will be able to produce writings in multiple genres that evoke Hong Kong's unique past, present, and future. Through responding to each other's work, students will learn to constructively evaluate their own writing and the writing of others.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this course a student will have:

- i) Developed an understanding of cultural and literary issues regarding writing about Hong Kong in English.
- ii) Considered the various genres and their diverse possibilities in relation to writing about Hong Kong.
- iii) Gained experience in careful, constructive evaluation of their own writing as well as those of others.
- iv) Acquired and discussed techniques of writing about Hong Kong.

Course schedule

Lectures	Topics
1)	Introduction: Who Writes Hong Kong in English? Who Reads?
2)	The Writer's Toolkit: Music, Story, Argument
3)	Poetry: Imagery and Description
4)	Poetry: Speaker/Addressee Relationship
5)	Short Fiction: Character and Desire
6)	Short Fiction: Scene, Plot, and Tone
7)	Creative Nonfiction: Memory and Time
8)	Creative Nonfiction: Object as Lens
9)	Planning Your Writing Projects
10)	Peer Critique: The Very Rough Draft
11)	Peer Critique: The Developing Draft
12)	Peer Critique: The Ambitious Draft
13)	Conclusion: Finding Your Place in Hong Kong's Writing Communities

Assessment Scheme

Task nature	Description	Weight
In-class Participation	Attendance is required. Students are expected to engage actively and promptly in all exercises, workshops, and class discussions. This mark may include deductions for late arrival or absence in class.	10%
Discussion Board Responses	Each week you'll post a response to a discussion board prompt. Sometimes the prompts will ask for critical responses to assigned readings; sometimes they will ask for creative responses or for self-reflection about your writing process. The responses will be informal, though you should proofread them to make sure your meaning comes across clearly.	20%
In-Depth Responses	You'll complete two formal 300-500 word pieces of critical writing over the course of the term. 1. <u>Hong Kong Neighborhood Study</u> : Choose a neighborhood in Hong Kong (it may be one you are already familiar with, or a new one). Research the history of the neighborhood. Spend at least an hour there at street level. You may walk or bike around, or you may sit in one place and watch the street around you. Take notes. Write 300-500 words about how the traces of the neighborhood's history are, or are not, apparent to you. 2. <u>Literary Event Response</u> : Twice during the semester, attend a literary event (the events can be in-person or online). Write one 300-500 word response in which you address both events, perhaps comparing and contrasting them, and articulate what, it seems to you, literary community means in Hong Kong.	30% (15%) (15%)
Final Creative Project and Critical Self-Reflection	Your final project will have both a creative and a critical component. The creative component will be a short work of fiction or creative nonfiction, or a selection of poems (or one long poem). The critical component will be a reflection describing your drafting process and discussing your inspiration, imagined audience, and goals for your creative piece.	40%

Learning Resources

All selected readings will be made available on the course website. While there is no requirement to purchase a textbook or other materials, students are responsible for printing out or downloading and bringing to class all assigned readings, either in hard copy or digitally.

Feedback for evaluation

In any community of writers, constructive feedback is key, and in this class it is very welcome. Students may raise questions or offer comments during workshop sessions, as well as via email or during individual office hours. At the midpoint and at the end of the course, there will be opportunities for anonymous feedback via questionnaire, focusing on how well the course is meeting student needs.

A facility for posting course announcements

An email network will be established in the beginning of the term, as well as an online website at CU eLearning's Blackboard system. Using these, students may communicate themselves and with the instructor, exchanging ideas, asking questions, sharing information, posting announcements, submitting ideas or links relevant to class discussion.

Academic honesty and plagiarism

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/>. Students will be required to submit a signed [declaration](#) that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.