

**Field-Research Course : Taiwan in the Global Political Economy of Care
Field research course/Cours recherche-terrain**

**ANDRÉ LALIBERTÉ
SUMMER 2016**

COURSE OUTLINE

Class schedule: January 2016; May 6-20, 2016
National Chengchi University (NCCU), Taipei

Professor's office: Office DMS 9116 (January)
NCCU (May)

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Any questions sent by email should receive a response within two business days or during the following class if taken place within the 48 hours following receipt of the email. Note that the professor reserves the right not to answer an email if the level of language used is inadequate.

On Virtual Campus: No

OFFICIAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the political history of Taiwan, with a focus on gender, migration, and the work of care. This class will include visits to institutions and NGOs working with, and for, migrant live-in caregivers, as well as other relevant sites dealing with elderly care.

COURSE GENERAL OBJECTIVES

This course will offer a unique opportunity to look at a pressing problem in the Asia-Pacific that affects countries all over the world, and will grow in importance in the coming decades. As many governments are unable to provide care for their rapidly ageing population in a timely manner, they have created a major pull factor for a mass migration movement whose dynamics reveal major issues in relation to gender inequality, labor abuse, discrimination, and mobilization against these abuses. We will look at these issues keeping in mind a comparative perspective but we will focus on a case study with experts on site, coming from different disciplines. We will have a series of preparatory meetings, including lectures on Taiwan, given in Ottawa, three weeks of an intensive summer semester, entirely held in Taiwan, followed by two weeks back in Ottawa in which students will present the result of their research. The goal of the course is to develop skills for pursuing field research in a variety of fields in social sciences. At the end of the term, students should be able to assess critically information about ageing societies, the global care chain, social unrest, from the perspective of the political economy of welfare regimes, labor rights, gender issues, and cultural studies.

SPÉCIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, students will be able to understand politics of care and also will have a better grasp of the comparative perspective to study the institutions, processes of political change, political economy, and issues of identity in other societies. Another objective of the course is to ensure a balanced view on a country that is all too often misrepresented or simply overlooked, despite its importance in world affairs. An important feature of the course is to offer not only cutting-edge scholarship about the study of Taiwanese politics, but also to meet in person some of the people who produce that scholarship, and meet some of the people who are the subject of the scholarship, to present the diversity of Taiwanese voices. Finally, the students will learn about the methods required for the study of Taiwan and other societies outside Canada. At the end of the course, you should be able to debate issues of Taiwanese politics, social change, gender relations, and multiculturalism.

TEACHING METHOD

The first part of our meetings will be lectures given by professors at the University of Ottawa, followed by interactive sessions, to prepare students for their visit in Taiwan. The visit in Taiwan will include attendance at lectures given by professors in the National Chengchi University, as well as excursions to sites relevant to the lectures, and interactions with actors relevant to the subject seen in the class. During their stay in Taiwan, students will give oral presentations about their experience and after their return they will present a research project. The activities in class, usually held in the morning, will be followed during the afternoon by the excursion. During the last days of class, the excursions will be followed by exchanges with people involved in the health sector, the welfare of caregivers, as well as human rights organizations and other NGOs dealing with immigrants in Taiwan. Professor Laliberté will be present to all activities, including teaching, excursion, briefings and other meetings.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

The presence in all classes and activities is mandatory.

The students will do a short oral presentation to their peers from the host university, where they will introduce an issue in Canadian society, politics, or the economy, for example, multiculturalism, health care, ageing, immigration, gender equality, etc. This presentation will serve as the basis for their final paper, which would outline how to compare Canada and Taiwan on the issue of their choice.

To encourage active participation and enhance the value of the educational excursions, students will write short essays that summarize their experience for at least 5 of them among them, including a mandatory report for excursions 11 and 12.

The students will write a short essay upon their return that summarizes their findings. For the students at the undergraduate level, the essay will be the equivalent of a term paper. For the students at the MA level, the expectation will be revised upward accordingly: they will have to write the equivalent of a research proposal leading to either a major research paper or an MA thesis.

The grading will be as follows:

Presence:	10 % of final grade
Oral presentation:	25 %
Short essays for excursions (5 x 5 points):	25 %
Final essay:	40 %

NB: the lectures will be in English but some of the lecturers are francophones: students should feel free to interact with them in French. Students can also choose to write their final essay in French.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1

May 8th

9-12 AM Course 1

Introduction of the course, the institution, the faculty, the settings, by Andre Laliberte and Yang Wan-Ying (NCCU)

2-5 PM Excursion 1

Briefing session at the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei by Su-Yun Gartner to introduce the relations between Canada and Taiwan on all levels: economic, cultural, and diplomatic

May 9th

9-12 AM Course 2

Taiwan as a sovereign democracy: regional and historical context, by Wu Der-yuan (NCCU) or Stéphane Corcuff (Centre d'étude français sur la Chine contemporaine, antenne de Taipei)

2-5 PM Excursion 2

Guided visit to the National Palace Museum, where are displayed treasures from China. This will shed light on the curious fact that Taiwan is called officially the Republic of China.

May 10th

9-12 AM Course 3

A multicultural society: ethnic and religious dimensions, by Michael Chang Mau-kuei (Academia Sinica)

2-5 PM Excursion 3

Guided visit to the Chiang Kai-shek/Democracy Memorial Hall, which embodies the contradictions of this young democracy, which is struggling to reconcile with a recent and bloody past.

May 11th

9-12 AM Course 4

The costs of Taiwan's economic miracle, by Frank Wang (NCCU)

2-5 PM Excursion 4

Visit to the Taipei 101 and the New Taipei Business District, which highlights Taiwan's success as a New Industrial Country in the 1970s and an economic powerhouse ever since. Tom Cumming, representative of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Taiwan will accompany the group.

May 12th

9-12 AM Course 5

Taiwan's welfare regime and democratization, by Frank Wang (NCCU)

2-5 PM Excursion 5

Guided Visit to the Museum of Medical Humanities, which is located at Taiwan's prime health care institution, the Taiwan University General Hospital, which also double as a historical heritage site.

May 13th, Saturday

Excursion 6

Participant observation in Tienmu, a posh neighbourhood where live many retirees and where work care-givers: how many of them can you see? How many Indonesians do you see (you can't miss them because of their dress code)? How many are looking after elderly or young children?

May 14th, Sunday

Excursion 7

Participant observation in Little Manilla, where Filipina care-givers congregate on Sundays for mass: ow many men do you see? How many come with the people they care for? We may finish eating there and even attend a cultural event in the evening.

Week 2

May 15th

9-12 AM Course 6

The curse of demography: skewed sex ratio and population ageing, by Cheng Li-Hsuan (NCCU)

2-5 PM

Students' Day 1 of presentations on Canadian issues that will be the subject of the students' comparative investigation in Taiwan

May 16th

9-12 AM Course 7

The concept of global care chain and its domestic impact, by Lan Pei-Chia (NTU)

2-5 PM

Students' Day 2 of presentations on Canadian issues that will be the subject of the students' comparative investigation in Taiwan

May 17th

9-12 AM Course 8

Taiwan's live-in caregivers and gender imbalances, by Lan Pei-chia (NTU)

2-5 PM Excursion 8

Meeting with activists of the Awakening Foundation, one of the most respected and established association for women's empowerment and rights.

May 18th

9-12 AM Course 9

The politics of identity and migration, by Stéphane Corcuff (CEFC) or Jerome Soldani

2-5 PM Excursion 9

Meeting with staff of the Taiwan International Workers Association and affiliated associations, a key actor for the organization of migrant and care-workers

May 19th

9-12 AM Course 10

Taiwan's labor regulations and the rights of caregivers, by Vivianne Weng (NCCU)

2-5 PM Excursion 10

Guided visit to the office of Garden of Hope, hosted by Anthony Carlisle. The GOH is a major resource center sub-contracted by the Labor Department to help migrant workers in distress

May 20th, Saturday

Excursion 11

Return to Tienmu: what has changed, what remains the same?

May 21st, Sunday

Excursion 12

Return to Little Manila: same as above.

Week 3

May 22nd

9-12 AM Course 11

The role of NGOs: TIWA, Awakening Foundation, Garden of Hope, by Yang Wan-Ying (NCCU)

2-5 PM Excursion 13

Visit to the Hsin-tien-Gong temple: this will be a foray into the dominant form of religion and spirituality of Taiwanese, which would help to illustrate and understand the enormous cultural gap between Taiwanese elderly and the migrant care-givers looking after their welfare.

May 23th

9-12 AM Course 12

The role of religious institutions and traditions, by Antonio Terrone (NCCU)

2-5 PM Excursion 14

Meeting with volunteers of the Tzu Chi general hospital, one of the main health care institutions in Taiwan, but also its largest philanthropy, and as such, a source of alternative support for elderly care

May 24th

9-12 AM Briefing by Mhike Ho, of the Guangchi Communication Service, who will speak about the interactions between Taiwanese and migrant workers

2-5 PM Excursion 15

Visit to the 228 peace Park, a memorial that highlights the issues of national identity, and the difficulty of coming to terms with authoritarian regimes; we will also visit nearby bookstores

May 25th

9-12 AM Meeting with journalists from the Taipei Times, who will highlight some of the cause celebre of abuses of domestic workers.

2-5 PM Excursion 16

Visit to the site of Academia Sinica, the prime research institute of Taiwan.

May 26th

9-12 AM Meeting with faculty and students of NCCU

2-5 PM Excursion 17

To be determined by colleagues at the host institution