

Research Course : Taiwan, World Health & and the Global Care Chain

**ANDRÉ LALIBERTÉ
SUMMER 2020**

COURSE OUTLINE

Class schedule: May 10-28, 2020
University of Ottawa online via zoom
with colleagues from National Chengchi University, Taipei

Professor's office: Office DMS 5028 (January to March)
See my mail address (April-May)

Email : alaliber@uottawa.ca

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: zoom

OFFICIAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the political, economic, and social history of contemporary Taiwan, with a focus on its exceptional response to the global health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The central question is how Taiwan has tackled this challenge and how it has affected some of its most vulnerable population, in particular its elderly and the migrant workers who care for them. This class will include visits online to different relevant ministries, agencies, and institutions as well as NGOs and associations of civil society.

COURSE GENERAL OBJECTIVES

This course takes into account fully the extraordinary circumstances of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Originally, the goal of the course was to look at Taiwan as a case study of a society faced with the problem of a rapidly ageing population, and how a combination of governments' social and welfare policies have created a major pull factor for a mass migration movement whose dynamics reveal major problems in relation to gender inequality, labor abuse, discrimination, but also, more positively, mobilization by civil society to address these issues. The capacity of Taiwan to successfully address the current pandemic despite the vulnerabilities spelled out above appears then all the more remarkable and urgently deserving of study. The course aspire to inspire future such investigation on the ground. It will consist of three weeks of long-distance teaching between Canada and Taiwan, along with research online and the writing of short essays to share results. The goal of the course remains to develop skills for pursuing research in a variety of fields in social sciences. At the end of the term, students should be able to assess critically information about the global care chain and responses to sanitary crises from the perspective of the political economy of welfare regimes.

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, students will be able to understand politics of care and 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 specific objective of the course is to ensure a balanced view on a country that ends up all too often misrepresented or simply overlooked, despite its importance in world affairs, as the current health crisis so eloquently demonstrate. An important feature of the course is to offer not only cutting-edge scholarship about the study of Taiwanese politics, but also to meet online some of the people who produce that scholarship, and investigate online the institutions and actors 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 and its relevance to global health safety and disease control.

TEACHING METHOD

Part of our meetings will be remote lectures given online by professor Laliberté and on occasions by his colleagues in the National Chengchi University in Taiwan. Because of the considerable difference in time zones, please note that the lectures by Taiwanese colleagues will be delivered during the evenings. This is a small price to pay for the opportunity to have a person-to-person contact. While the original class had planned excursions to sites relevant to the lectures, and interactions with actors relevant to the subject seen in the class, the substitution to these activities will consist in research online to sites related to the lectures' themes. The students will work in small teams to research into archives of government agencies, NGOs, and media that will serve to establish the foundation of a written essay that will seek to answer analytical questions to be determined in the first meeting. The activities of research will be flexible, during the daytime, but the lectures will happen in the evening. Professor Laliberté will be present to all activities, including teaching by colleagues in Taiwan.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

The presence in all classes and activities is mandatory.

To encourage active participation and enhance the value of the research online during the first two weeks, students will write short reports that summarize their findings on a daily basis. In the third week, there will be five meetings where three students will each present their findings for 15 minutes. Seminar discussion will follow.

Each students will write a short essay upon their return that summarizes their findings. The essay will be the equivalent of a term paper, with no more than 5000 words, footnotes not included.

The grading will be as follows:

Presence in online course:	10 % of final grade
Short report from online research (8 x 5%):	40 %
Oral presentation:	10 %
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. Knowledge of Mandarin is not required for this class but it would constitute an asset while looking at many of the websites of the Taiwanese government and NGOs.

COURSE OUTLINE (please note that this can be subject to change)

The students must arrive in class well prepared before our daily evening meeting: this means that they will have read the recommended texts and will have gotten familiar with the websites listed below. The meetings will last three hours: there will be lectures followed by Q and A. Students will have to submit a short report from their visits to the website and their readings. These reports will be their attempts to answer the questions listed below.

Week 1

May 10th, Monday -- TAIWAN IN WORLD AFFAIRS

This meeting outlines the content of the course and our methodology for the next three weeks.

Recommended reading:

Gary D. Rawnsley, 2020, "Introduction: Taiwan, Public Diplomacy, and the World Health Assembly" *International Journal of Taiwan Studies* 3 no. 1 (February): 5-9.

<https://www.mofa.gov.tw/en/>

<https://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/index.aspx?lang=eng>

9 PM-12 AM (I will attempt to negotiate a slightly earlier schedule and will inform you)

Introduction of the course, the institution, the faculty, the settings, with Professor **André LALIBERTE** and Professor **TSAI Chung-wen**

May 11th, Tuesday -- MODERN TAIWANESE HISTORY

Why Taiwan is not part of the WHO but manages to control COVID-19?

Recommended reading:

James Meernik, Philip Paolino, 2016. "Introduction," In Philip Paolino, ed., *Democratization in Taiwan: Challenges in Transformation*, pp. 1-10. London: Routledge.

<https://www.npm.gov.tw/en/>

<https://www.cksmh.gov.tw/en/>

<https://www.ntm.gov.tw/en/>

<https://www.cksmh.gov.tw/en/>

<https://www.boch.gov.tw/en/>

Transitional justice commission: <https://www.tjc.gov.tw/> (In Chinese only)

9 PM-12 PM

An overview of Taiwan's geopolitical context and the recent history of events at the origins of its exclusion from the international community, with Dr. **J-Michael Cole**

May 12th, Wednesday -- POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS

How to screen the population for disease control without jeopardizing basic individual liberties?

Recommended reading:

Dafydd Fell, "A multitude of political miracles and future challenges." In *Government and Politics in Taiwan*, pp. 283-293. London: Routledge.

<https://www.cec.gov.tw/english>

<http://www1.kmt.org.tw/english/index.asp>

<https://www.dpp.org.tw/en/about>

<https://www.newpowerparty.tw/> (in Chinese only)

<https://www.pfp.org.tw:8443/TW/home/> (In Chinese only)

9 PM-12 AM

An introduction to the political system of Taiwan that presents its constitution, its government and main agencies, its political parties, and its main politicians, with Professor **André LALIBERTE**

May 13th, Thursday -- THE ECONOMY

How resilient is the current knowledge-based economy in the context of global trade disputes ?

Recommended reading:

Peter C.Y. Chow, 2018, "The State of Studying the Taiwanese Economy: Retrospect and Prospect". *International Journal of Taiwan Studies* 1 no. 1 (August): 331-352.

https://www.moea.gov.tw/MNS/dos_e/content/ContentLink.aspx?menu_id=6748

<https://www.mof.gov.tw/eng>

<https://www.ndc.gov.tw/en/default.aspx>

9 PM-12 AM

The costs of Taiwan's economic miracle, with Professor **Jack WU**

May 14th, Friday -- THE WELFARE STATE AND HEALTH CARE

How long can the current welfare regime protect its ageing population from external shock?

Recommended reading:

Wang Ye-suk, 2017, "Historical Development of NHI in Taiwan: De-familialization Path of Welfare Politics." In *Familial Foundations of the Welfare State*, pp. 107-137. Singapore: Springer.

<https://www.mohw.gov.tw/cp-123-520-2.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov.tw/En>

<https://www.nhi.gov.tw/english/>

<https://www.hpa.gov.tw/EngPages/Index.aspx>

<https://www.sfaa.gov.tw/SFAA/Eng/Default.aspx>

9 PM -12 AM

Taiwan's welfare regime and democratization, with Professor KU Yeun-wen

Week 2

May 17th, Monday -- MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

How is society coping with the cultural changes brought by increasing labor migration?

Recommended reading:

Nakahara Yumiko, 2017, "Foreign Laborers: Status and Problems." *International Labor Mobility to and from Taiwan*, pp. 69-99. Singapore: Springer.

https://www.moi.gov.tw/files/site_stuff/321/1/month/month_en.html

<https://www.immigration.gov.tw/5475>

<https://www.npa.gov.tw/NPAGip/wSite/mp?mp=4>

9 PM -12 AM

The politics of identity and migration, with Professor Frank WANG Tseng-yung

May 18th, Tuesday -- LABOR RIGHTS

How to promote the safety and security of workers in the frontlines of health crises?

Recommended readings:

Ye 2019. "The Evolution of Human Rights in Taiwan and Challenges from China." *Asia Policy* 14 no. 4 (October): 26-34.

<https://www.moj.gov.tw/mp-095.html>

<http://www.humanrights.moj.gov.tw/mp-205.html>

9 PM -12 AM

Taiwan's labor regulations and the rights of caregivers, with Professor Vivianne WENG

May 19th, Wednesday -- GLOBAL CARE CHAIN AND THE WORK OF CARE

How to meet the demand for live-in caregivers in the context of a global pandemic?

Recommended readings:

Lan Pei-chia, 2019, "From Reproductive Assimilation to Neoliberal Multiculturalism: Framing and Regulating Immigrant Mothers and Children in Taiwan." *Journal of Intercultural Studies* 40 no. 3 (April): 318-333.

<https://english.mol.gov.tw/6387/>

<https://www.bli.gov.tw/en/>

<https://www.wda.gov.tw/en/>

9 PM -12 AM

The concept of global care chain and its domestic impact, with Professor LEE Shao-fen

May 20th, Thursday -- THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

How do NGOs support vulnerable workers in times of emergency?

Recommended readings:

Yun Fan, 2019, "New opportunities and new challenges: Social movements after 2000." In *Social Movements in Taiwan's Democratic Transition : Linking Activists to the Changing Political Environment*, pp. 115-127. London: Routledge.

<https://newbloommag.net/>

<https://www.tiwa.org.tw/>

<https://www.awakening.org.tw/content/3942>

<https://www.goh.org.tw/en/index.asp>

9 PM -12 AM

Taiwan's live-in caregivers and gender imbalances, with assistant Professor Janis CHIEN Yi-Chun

May 21st, Friday -- VALUES AND FILIAL PIETY

How traditional values reinforce or hinder the implementation of public policies?

Recommended readings:

Lin Ju-ping and Yi Chun-chin, 2019, "Dilemmas of an Aging Society: Family and State Responsibilities for Intergenerational Care in Taiwan." *Journal of Family Issues* 40 no. 14 (October): 1912-1936.

<http://www.tzuchi.com.tw/en/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Christopher-Parish-Church-Taipei-Taiwan/215629121887288>

<https://www.baoan.org.tw/?&lang=en>

<https://www.tctcc.taipei/en-us/index.htm>

9 PM -12 AM

The role of religious institutions' charities, with Dr. Ray WANG.

Week 3

May 24th, Monday

2-5 PM presentations from students 1 to 3

May 25th, Tuesday

2-5 PM presentations from students 4 to 6

May 26th, Wednesday

2-5 PM presentations from students 7 to 9

May 27st, Thursday

2-5 PM presentations from students 10 to 12

May 28th, Friday

2-5 PM presentations from students 13 to 15

Final assignment

June 25th

Submission of final essay