

**Field-Research Course : Taiwan in the Global Political Economy of Care
FRC-CRT**

**ANDRÉ LALIBERTÉ
SUMMER 2020**

COURSE OUTLINE

Class schedule: January 2020 and other dates TBC; May 4-22, 2020
University of Ottawa; National Chengchi University, Taipei

Professor's office: Office DMS 5028 (January to April)
National Chengchi University (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: 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 post-industrial 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 problems in relation to gender inequality, labor abuse, discrimination, and mobilization against these abuses. We will look at these concerns keeping in mind a comparative perspective but with a 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 the writing of an essay 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 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 ends up 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 be introduced to participant observation with NGOs to learn about the problems faced by live-in caregivers and the challenges faced by the people who work to help them. They will meet after that week to exchange views about that experience and they will present a written essay about their learning experience after their return to Ottawa. The activities in class, usually held in the morning, will be followed during the afternoon by the excursion. 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.

To encourage active participation and enhance the value of the educational excursions, students will write short essays that summarize their experience for at least 3 among them. They will also prepare an oral presentation of 15 minutes at the end of their initiation to participant observations.

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
Short essays for excursions (3 x 10%):	30 %
Oral presentation after initiation to participant observation:	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 *(please note that this can be subject to change)*

Week 1

May 4th, Monday

9-12 AM Course 1

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

2-5 PM Excursion 1

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

May 5th, Tuesday

9-12 AM Course 2

Taiwan as a sovereign democracy: strategic and political context, with Dr. Michael COLE

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 6th, Wednesday

9-12 AM Course 3

A multicultural society: ethno-linguistic and religious dimensions, with Professor WANG Fu-chang

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 7th, Thursday

9-12 AM Course 4

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

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.

May 8th, Friday

9-12 AM Course 5

Taiwan's welfare regime and democratization, with Professor LU Pao-Ching

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 9th, 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 10th, 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 11th, Monday

9-12 AM Course 6

The curse of demography: skewed sex ratio and population ageing, with Professor CHENG Li-Hsuan

2-5 PM

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

May 12th, Tuesday

9-12 AM Course 7

The concept of global care chain and its domestic impact, with Professor LAN Pei-Chia

2-5 PM

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

May 13th, Wednesday

9-12 AM Course 8

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

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 (TBC).

May 14th, Thursday

9-12 AM Course 9

The politics of identity and migration, with Professor Frank WANG (TBC)

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 (TBC)

May 15th, Friday

9-12 AM Course 10

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

2-5 PM Excursion 10

Guided visit to the office of Garden of Hope. The GOH is a major resource center sub-contracted by the Labor Department to help migrant workers in distress (TBC)

May 16th, Saturday

Excursion 11

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 17th, Sunday

Excursion 12

Visit to the Confucius temple: this is a major public landmark in Taipei, host every year on Teachers' Day to elaborate ceremony, but also an occasion where the value of traditional filial piety is taught.

Week 3

May 18th, Monday

9-12 AM Course 11

The role of NGOs: TIWA, Awakening Foundation, Garden of Hope, with Professor Michael HSIAO

2-5 PM Excursion 13

Visit to an NGO based in Taoyuan City, an important neighbouring city and point of arrival for many migrant workers.

May 19th, Tuesday

9-12 AM Course 12

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

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 20th, Wednesday

9-12 AM

Meeting with the Thinking Taiwan Foundation.

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 21st

9-12 AM

Meeting with legislators (TBC).

2-5 PM Excursion 16

Visit to be determined.

May 22nd

9-12 AM Meeting with faculty and students of NCCU

2-5 PM Excursion 17

To be determined by colleagues at the host institution

Back in Ottawa

June 11th

5 PM Submission of final essay
