

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

**ANDRÉ LALIBERTÉ
SUMMER 2018**

COURSE OUTLINE

Class schedule: January 2018; May 7-25, 2018
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 introduces you to the politics of Taiwan, with a focus on the issue of ageing, gender, migration, and the work of care. This class will include visits to institutions and NGOs working with, and for, migrant live-in caregivers, and will include training for participant-observation fieldwork.

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. 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, that will include volunteering for an NGO, and which will conclude with a session wherein students will share their experience. 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 be embedded in one of three 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 after their return to Ottawa they will present a short written report about their learning experience. 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 5 of them among them. They will also prepare an oral presentation of 15 minutes at the end of their week of volunteering.

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 (5 x 5 points):	25 %
Oral presentation at the conclusion of the fieldwork:	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 some of the events below will be confirmed during the Winter Semester)

Week 1

May 7th (Monday)

9-12 AM Course 1

Introduction of the course, the institution, the faculty, the settings, by Andre Laliberte and a professor from the Programs of international exchanges (NCCU)

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 8th (Tuesday)

9-12 AM Course 2

Taiwan as a sovereign democracy: regional and historical context

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 9th (Wednesday)

9-12 AM Course 3

A multicultural society: ethnic and religious dimensions

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 10th (Thursday)

9-12 AM Course 4

The costs of Taiwan's economic miracle

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 11th (Friday)

9-12 AM Course 5

Taiwan's welfare regime and democratization

2-5 PM Excursion 5

Participant observation at the Taipei Central Station, where congregate many Indonesian care-givers on their day of rest, on what is their day of prayer, to socialize with friends and relatives. Observe the interaction with the locals.

May 12th (Saturday)

Excursion 6

Participant observation at 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 13th (Sunday)

Excursion 7

Participant observation in Little Manilla, where Filipina care-givers congregate on Sundays for mass: how 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 14th , M

9-12 AM Course 6

The curse of demography: skewed sex ratio and population ageing

2-5 PM Excursion 8

Meeting with volunteers of the Tzu Chi Foundation, one of the main health care institutions in Taiwan, but also its largest philanthropy, and as such, a major source of non-state support for long-term care.

May 15th , T

9-12 AM Course 7

The concept of global care chain and its domestic impact

2-5 PM Excursion 9

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.

May 16th , W

9-12 AM Course 8

Taiwan's live-in caregivers and gender imbalances

2-5 PM Excursion 10

Visit to the Legislative Yuan, meeting with legislators.

May 17th , T

9-12 AM Course 9

Taiwan's labor regulations and the rights of caregivers

2-5 PM Excursion 11

Visit to the Human Rights Museum in Jinmei, the site of a prison during Martial Law and the 'White terror' period.

Week 3

May 18th-23rd (F-S)

Volunteering in one of three NGOs:

- Garden of Hope, Hsindian, New Taipei City (a resource center sub-contracted by the Labor Department to help migrant workers in distress, victims of domestic violence and human trafficking);
- Save The People, Taoyuan (an independent NGO that help workers in distress from abusive employers in the sector of social welfare, industry, and fishing);
- Worker's Hope Center, Chungli (a new NGO working with the local government to provide legal support and counselling to migrant workers victims of workplace abuse).

May 24th

9-12 AM

Part one of the sharing session

2-5 PM

Part two of the sharing session

May 25th

9-12 AM Meeting with faculty and students of NCCU

2-5 PM

To be determined by colleagues at the host institution