

**Course Title** : **Natural History of Hong Kong**  
**Course Code** : CLD9018  
**Recommended Study Year** : Unrestricted  
**No. of Credits** : 3 credits  
**Mode of Tuition** : Lecture and tutorial (in the form of lab/field session)  
**Class Contact Hours** : Two 1-hour lecture sessions and one 3-hour lab/field session per week, 14 weeks  
**Category** : Core Curriculum (Science, Technology and Society Cluster)  
**Prerequisite** : None  
**Teaching Language** : English

**Time & Location:** 1-2pm (Tue)—MBG01, 1-2pm (Fri)—LKK201, 2-5pm (Fri)—NAB113/field  
**Instructor:** Jonathan Fong **e-mail:** jonfong@ln.edu.hk  
**Office Location:** HSH330 **Office Hours:** 8-10am (Tue)  
9-11am (Fri)

### **Brief Course Description:**

This course introduces students to the natural history of Hong Kong. Natural history is the scientific study of living organisms and their environment, focusing on observation to gather data. Geographically sitting in the transition zone between tropical and temperate habitats, Hong Kong has a diversity of habitats, rich biodiversity compared to its size (*e.g.* Hong Kong is home to  $\sim\frac{1}{3}$  of China's bird species) and is also home to globally endangered (*e.g.* Black-faced spoonbill, Golden coin turtle, Chinese pangolin) and endemic species (not found anywhere else in the world; 3 reptiles, 1 amphibian, 5 fish, 19 invertebrates, and 20 vascular plants). The goal of this course is to combine theory learned in the classroom with hands-on experience in the field to learn about the ecosystems and living organisms of Hong Kong.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completing of this course, a fully-engaged student will be able to:

1. Describe the factors that influence the climate of Hong Kong.
2. Observe, identify, and discuss the physical features of Hong Kong (mountains, rivers, marine systems, etc).
3. Observe, identify, and discuss ecosystems and biodiversity in Hong Kong.
4. Discuss important environmental issues in Hong Kong.
5. Locate reliable information about the natural history of Hong Kong.
6. Communicate effectively to a general audience about Hong Kong natural history.

**Assessment:**

Continuous assessment of students will include the following categories:

Reflective Journal	20%
Students will keep field notes. Journals will be evaluated at least two times during the course and assessed based on the quality of the information, writing, and organization.	
Knowledge Repositories	40%
Material that the students produce for the general public or future students to use, including instruction manuals, webpages, and specimens.	
Quizzes and Tests	30%
Lecture, laboratory, and field	
Participation	10%
Assess the effort of students, including attendance, discussion, and in-class assignments.	

**Final Grade:**

With the move towards criterion-referenced assessment, your cumulative score will determine your final grade.

A (100-90), B (89-80), C (79-70), D (69-60), F (<60)

**Test Policy:**

If you miss the test due to some medical emergency, contact me as soon as possible. You will only be able to take a make-up test if you have a doctor's note. Depending on the situation, there will be an automatic deduction of 10-20%.

**Sample Reading List (selected topics):**

Dudgeon D, Corlett R (2011) The ecology and biodiversity of Hong Kong. Cosmos Books & Lions Nature Education Foundation, Hong Kong.

**Important Notes:**

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.**
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.**
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.**
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.**

**NOTE: Schedule is tentative—may change**

Week 1	January 17 January 20	Introduction <b>Field: Tai Lam</b>	Jan 21: add/drop deadline
Week 2	January 24 January 27	History of nature in Hong Kong <b>NO CLASS: Lunar New Year</b>	
Week 3	January 31 February 3	<b>NO CLASS: Lunar New Year</b> Introduction to Biodiversity <b>Field: Campus BioBlitz</b>	
Week 4	February 7 February 10	Evolution and taxonomy Hong Kong Biodiversity <b>Field: Tuen Mun Park BioBlitz</b>	
Week 5	February 14 February 17	Plant morphology <b>Lab/Field: Plant classification and Identification</b>	
Week 6	February 21 February 24	Fungi Biodiversity: How do we estimate it? <b>Field: Vegetation survey by quadrat/transect</b>	
Week 7	February 28 March 3	Bird morphology <b>Field: Nam Sang Wai bird survey</b>	Meet at Yuen Long Station, exit G1 (1:15pm)
Week 8	March 7 March 10	Review <b>TEST 1</b>	
Week 9	March 14 March 17	The environments: What are they? Terrestrial environment <b>Field: Tai Po Kau (terrestrial)</b>	Meet at Tai Po Market Station, exit A (1:45pm)
Week 10	March 21 March 24	Marine/Coastal environment <b>Field: Pak Nai (sandy shore)</b>	Meet Lingnan front gate (1pm)
Week 11	March 28 March 31	Habitat Management, Intro to Long Valley and Mai Po <b>Field: Long Valley</b>	Meet at Sheung Shui Station, exit A2 (1:30pm)
Week 12	April 4 April 7	<b>NO CLASS—Ching Ming Festival</b> <b>Field: Mai Po</b>	Meet Lingnan front gate (1pm)
Week 13	April 11 April 14	Conservation and SD <b>NO CLASS: Easter Holidays</b>	
Week 14	April 18 April 21	<b>Debate and Discussions: Economic development, conservation and SD</b> Synthesis/Review/CTLE	
Week 15	April 25	<b>TEST 2</b>	