

Living History – Dr. Au Chi Kin

When did you last touch history? Dr. Au Chi Kin's students at the Hong Kong Community College do so every day, guided by a passionate teacher who sees aspects of the past everywhere. For Dr. Au, the point is not to just talk about what happened long ago, but to show how it affects daily life.

Drawing on an employment background in jobs as diverse as security guard, administrative assistant and tour guide, Dr. Au is keenly aware that people want their interest aroused. So he uses his students' lives as the base, and teaches history from that perspective.

Living in Hong Kong, Dr. Au's students are in touch with a rich history every day, although most are not usually aware of it at first. One particularly effective way Dr. Au changes this is with field trips that allow him to show how colonial control in the 19th century still influences the way districts such as Central District are experienced in the 21st century.

"If I tell them about it in class," he says, "show them in a visit, then get them to review it during study time, then they totally understand what Central District really is."

A crucial advantage of Dr. Au's approach is that the knowledge gained can be passed on after graduation. Even business majors who take his course benefit during their careers when they need to show customers around Hong Kong and can explain the city in detail. Dr. Au often hears back from graduates about how useful their historical knowledge has been.

A fitting recipient of a Lively Teaching Award, an Inspiring Teaching Award and a Caring Teaching Award, Dr. Au received Outstanding Teaching Awards in 2003/04, 2005/06 and 2007/08. In this teacher's hands, history has never been more appreciated.



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歷史生活中呈現 — 區志堅博士

你上一次接觸歷史是甚麼時候？在香港專上學院的學生每天都有機會接觸到歷史，並且得到區志堅博士這位熱愛觀察歷史每個層面的老師作出熱衷指導。

區博士過往曾任職保安員、行政助理及導遊等多種職業，深深明白每個人都需要別人激發起他們對事物的興趣。他指出，死記硬背式的學習永遠都不足夠，因為「如果你以學生的生活為中心，並以此觀點跟他們講述歷史，便來得更為有效。」

區博士的學生多居住在香港，每日會接觸到濃厚的歷史事物；但學生起初未必會察覺到這點。要改變這種情況，區博士有一個非常有效的方法，就是安排學生參與實地考察，並向他們展示19世紀的殖民統治對現今21世紀多個區域（例如中區）仍有何影響。

區博士說：「如果我先在課堂上先講述有關歷史、在考察時向他們展示有關面貌，然後再作重溫，那麼他們便會完全瞭解中區目前的真實景貌。」

區博士靈活的教學方法，令學生得到的知識在畢業後能學以致用。例如往日曾修讀區博士歷史課程的商科學生，在工作上如要帶客人遊覽香港，亦能運用昔日所學，為客人生動地介紹香港獨特的歷史文化。區博士不時都會聽到畢業生跟他道謝，說歷史知識對他們的工作大有所用。

區博士於2003/04年度、2005/06年度及2007/08年度均獲頒發傑出教學獎，更榮獲生動教學獎、啟發教學獎及關心學生老師獎。在這位老師的薰陶下，歷史科不再是沉悶的科目，並得到學生的重視與歡迎。