

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Public Policy
with effect from Semester A 2020 / 21**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Government, Law and Economy

Course Code: POL2107

Course Duration: One semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: B2

Arts and Humanities

Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations

Science and Technology

Proposed Area:
(for GE courses only)

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) None

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) None

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) SA2107 Government, Law and Society, POL2107 Government, Law and Society

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) None

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

(A 150-word description about the course)

What are the reasons for having a government and what should be its main functions? What are the main types of government and is there a best form? What is law? What are the reasons for having law and what should be its main functions? What is rule of law and how can it be achieved? What are the key components of economy and how should they function? How do government, law, and economy relate to and interact with one another? Based on the intellectual discoveries of great thinkers and philosophers to answer these questions in the past, this course provides a foundation and an opportunity for students to reflect on and make their original discoveries of knowledge and ideas concerning government, law, economy, and their inter-relationship.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs [#]	Weighting* (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Appraise the intellectual discoveries of philosophers in the past on government, law, and economy.	40	✓	✓	
2.	Apply the intellectual discoveries of philosophers on government, law, and economy in analysis of public affairs in Hong Kong, China and the contemporary world for the discovery of original ideas and perspectives.	40	✓	✓	
3.	Construct innovative approaches and/or suggestions for resolving current problems related to government, law, and economy in Hong Kong, China and the contemporary world.	20		✓	✓
		100%			

* If weighting is assigned to CILOs, they should add up to 100%.

[#] Please specify the alignment of CILOs to the Gateway Education Programme Intended Learning outcomes (PILOs) in Section A of Annex.

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.			Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	
Reading	One piece of philosophical reading around 7,000 words every week of the semester for the formulation of an inquisitive mind and a passion for knowledge about the intellectual discoveries of philosophers in the past on government, law, and economy.	✓			2 hours/week
Class workshop	Three-hour class workshop every week of the semester for discussing the theories and concepts mentioned in the philosophical readings, applying the theories and concepts to analyse real world current issues, constructing a strong foundation in discipline-specific knowledge as well as original ideas and perspectives concerning public affairs in Hong Kong, China and the contemporary world.	✓	✓	✓	3 hours/week
Literature search & review	Discovery and analysis of information and facts, using critical reasoning and reflexive self-assessment, from a range of sources, including class workshop, discussions, books, articles, television, internet, documentaries, and the mass media.	✓	✓	✓	2 hours/week
Essay-writing	Written presentation of the discovered discipline-specific knowledge, original ideas and perspectives, as well as innovative suggestions concerning public affairs and problems related to government, law, and economy in Hong Kong, China and the contemporary world.	✓	✓	✓	2 hour/week
Canvas e-learning	Out-of-class online comments, questions, responses, debates, discussions, reviews of class workshops and readings as opportunities for the exchange of views, self-reflection, discovery of new knowledge, construction of original ideas, and formulation of innovative suggestions related to government, law, and economy in Hong Kong, China and the contemporary world.	✓	✓	✓	2 hours/week

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.			Weighting*	Remarks
	1	2	3		
Continuous Assessment: 100%					
Class workshop participation and performance	✓	✓	✓	30%	Attending the workshops, participating in class exercises, interacting with teachers and fellow students, asking questions and debating on real world current issues for students to demonstrate their ability to reflect critically on the intellectual discoveries of philosophers in the past on government, law, and economy, apply those intellectual discoveries in analysis of public affairs in Hong Kong, China and the contemporary world, as well as construct innovative approaches and/or suggestions for resolving the related problems.
Individual essays	✓	✓	✓	70%	Three pieces of individual essay over the semester to assess students' ability to appraise the intellectual discoveries of philosophers in the past on government, law, and economy, discover discipline-specific knowledge, formulate original ideas and perspectives on public affairs related to government, law, and economy in Hong Kong, China and the contemporary world, as well as construct innovative approaches and/or suggestions for resolving the related problems. Each essay should be around 1000 words.
Examination: 0%					

* The weightings should add up to 100%.

100%

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Class workshop participation and performance	Class attendance and participation in class exercises, interaction with teacher and fellow students, discussion and reflection on the intellectual discoveries of philosophers in the past and public affairs in Hong Kong, China and/or the contemporary world.	Excellent demonstration of accomplishing the assessment criteria.	Good demonstration of accomplishing the assessment criteria.	Adequate demonstration of accomplishing the assessment criteria.	Marginal demonstration of accomplishing the assessment criteria.	Insufficient demonstration of accomplishing the assessment criteria.
2. Individual essays	Knowledge of and reflection on the intellectual discoveries of philosophers in the past on government, law, and/or economy, application of those intellectual discoveries to analyse public affairs in Hong Kong, China and/or the contemporary world, discovery of original ideas and perspectives, formulation of innovative approaches and/or suggestions for resolving current problems in respect of government, law, and/or economy, writing and communication skills.	Excellent demonstration of accomplishing the assessment criteria.	Good demonstration of accomplishing the assessment criteria.	Adequate demonstration of accomplishing the assessment criteria.	Marginal demonstration of accomplishing the assessment criteria.	Insufficient demonstration of accomplishing the assessment criteria.

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Government. Law. Economy. Social contract. State powers. Monarchy. Aristocracy. Democracy. Natural law. Human law. Rule of law. Citizen rights. Civil rights. Human rights. Legal rights. Liberal economics. Capitalism. Marxism. Inequality. Poverty. Welfare state. Free market. Invisible hand.

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

1.	Aquinas, Saint Thomas, Summa Theologica. Questions 90-97.
2.	Aristotle, The Politics. Book Three, selected pages.
3.	Cicero, Marcus Tullius, On the Commonwealth. Selected pages.
4.	Fuller, Lon L., The Morality of Law. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1969. Chapters 2 & 3, selected pages.
5.	Hart, H.L.A., The Concept of Law. Oxford: Clarendon Press; New York: Oxford, 1961. Chapters 3 & 5, selected pages.
6.	Hayek, Friedrich A., The Road to Serfdom. Chapter 6, selected pages.
7.	Hobbes, Thomas, Leviathan. Chapters 13, 14, 15, 17 & 21, selected pages.
8.	Hume, David, Essays, Literary, Moral, and Political. Essay V. Of the Origin of Government, selected pages.
9.	Locke, John, The Second Treatise of Government. Book Two, Chapters 1, 2, 7, 8 & 9, selected pages.
10.	Machiavelli, Niccolò, The Prince. Parts I, II, III, XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XXV, selected pages.
11.	Marx, Karl and Engels, Frederick, The German Ideology. Selected pages.
12.	Raz, Joseph, The Authority of Law – Essays on Law and Morality. Oxford: Clarendon Press; New York: Oxford University Press, 1979. Chapter 11, selected pages.
13.	Rousseau, Jean-Jacques, Discourse on the Origin of Inequality. Selected pages.
14.	Smith, Adam, An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations. Book IV: Of Systems of Political Economy, selected pages.
15.	Summers, Robert S., Essays in Legal Theory. Dordrecht; Boston: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2000. Chapter 7, selected pages.
16.	Tocqueville, Alexis de, Democracy in America. Selected pages.

2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

1.	Michael Rosen and Jonathan Wolff (eds.), Political Thought, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1999.
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