

City University of Hong Kong

**Information on a Course
offered by Department of Public Policy
with effect from Semester A in 2014/15**

Part I

Course Title:	Theories of Government and Public Administration
Course Code:	POL5101
Course Duration:	one semester
No. of Credit Units:	3
Level:	P5
Medium of Instruction:	English
Prerequisites:	Nil
Precursors:	Nil
Equivalent Courses:	Nil
Exclusive Courses:	Nil

Part II

1. Course Aims:

This course aims to

- examine critically major theories about the state, the role of government and the nature of public administration, public management and governance;
- discover the theoretical and practical issues underpinning current trends whereby public administration is being reformulated in terms of public management and/or ‘good governance’;
- evaluate the similarities and differences in the roles and management of, and interactions between, the public, private and non-governmental sectors;
- apply the theories of government, governance and public administration/management to analyse the quality of governance in Hong Kong.
- enable students to analyse public administration/management issues in Hong Kong with reference to their historical, political, economic and social environments, and to recommend possible approaches for resolving the problems

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Examine and discuss critically the rationales for, the significant similarities and the differences between key paradigms of government and public service delivery including those of ‘public administration’, ‘new public management’, ‘good governance’, ‘politics-administration dichotomy’ and ‘modernising government’;	
2.	Analyse and explain the nature of recent trends in the changing roles and relationships between the state, public, private and non-governmental sectors, the reasons for these and their practical implications;	
3	Appraise and apply theoretical concepts of international trends in public administration and management reforms, which may include those of accountability, state capacity, responsive government, best value, executive agencies, performance management, private sector involvement, regulatory reform, etc., to analyse the development of public management in Hong Kong;	
4	Work together effectively in teams to critically appraise, both orally and in writing, key theories and practices involved in different approaches to public management and governance.	
5.	Analyse the Basic Law and the political system of the HKSAR including the relationships between the executive and legislature, the HKSAR and the Central Government of People’s Republic of China	
6.	Review critically and evaluate the meaning and key features of democratic government and of political developments in Hong Kong – including the prospects of future democratic development - both before and after 1997	

3. Teaching and learning Activities (TLAs)

(designed to facilitate students’ achievement of the CILOs)

CILO No	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
1,2,3,5,6	Readings: Students will be expected to read essential readings on all topics	
1,2,3,5,6	Lectures: Lectures will enable students to acquire knowledge of key concepts and theories and will provide the background for students to be able to analyse Hong Kong practices and developments	
1,3,4,5,6	In-class discussions, oral presentations and critiques : Students will form small groups to discuss, present and critique their ideas about topics allocated by the lecturers in class:	
1,3,4,5,6	Short Essays: Each student will be required to write TWO short (2,000- 2,500 words) essays on topics set by the lecturers.	
All CILOs	Blackboard: On-line availability of key lecture and presentation materials	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities

(designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs)

Students are required to pass BOTH the coursework assessment AND the examination before they can be awarded an overall passing grade of the course.

CILO No	Type of assessment tasks/activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
1,3,4,5,6	TWO 2,000-2,500 word individual papers. Each essay worth 25% of total marks.	50%	
1,2,3,5,6	3 hours examination	50%	

5. Grading of Student Achievement: Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees.

Letter Grade	Grading criteria in relation to CILOs
A+ A A-	An excellent standard of knowledge and understanding of key paradigms of government, governance and public sector management and well-developed ability to relate these critically to both local and international contexts. A strong ability to identify and discuss key issues and challenges in the changing relationships between the state, public, private and third sectors. Strong demonstration of critical ability to appraise and apply key theoretical concepts of international trends in public administration and management to local and international cases. High standards of understanding and of abilities to discuss and debate critical issues relating both to general principles and practices underlying democratic government and to the particular historical, current and future political developments occurring in Hong Kong. Very strong research, writing, team-work and communication skills.
B+ B B-	A generally good standard of knowledge and understanding of key paradigms of government, governance and public sector management and some ability to relate these critically to both local and international contexts. A sound ability to identify and discuss key issues and challenges in the changing relationships between the state, public, private and third sectors. Clear demonstration of critical ability to appraise and apply key theoretical concepts of international trends in public administration and management to local and international cases. A good standard of understanding and of abilities to discuss and debate critical issues relating both to general principles and practices underlying democratic government and to the particular historical, current and future political developments occurring in Hong Kong. Generally competent research, writing, team-work and communication skills.
C+ C C-	Rudimentary knowledge and limited understanding of key paradigms of government, governance and public sector management. Weak ability to relate paradigms critically to both local and international contexts. Some ability to identify and discuss key issues and challenges in the changing relationships between the state, public, private and third sectors. Weak demonstration of critical abilities to appraise and apply key theoretical concepts of international trends in public administration and management to local and international cases. Basic standard of understanding and of abilities to discuss and debate critical issues relating both to general principles and practices underlying democratic government and to the particular historical, current and future political developments occurring in Hong Kong. Research, writing, team-work and communication skills present but at minimum standards.

D	Poor knowledge and very limited understanding of key paradigms of government, governance and public sector management. Very little ability to relate paradigms critically to both local and international contexts. Only basic abilities to identify and discuss key issues and challenges in the changing relationships between the state, public, private and third sectors. Little demonstration of critical abilities to appraise and apply key theoretical concepts of international trends in public administration and management to local and international cases. A minimum standard of understanding and no real abilities to discuss and debate critical issues relating to either general principles and practices underlying democratic government or to the particular historical, current and future political developments occurring in Hong Kong. Underdeveloped research, writing, team-work and communication skills.
F	Almost no knowledge or understanding of key paradigms of government, governance and public sector management. Unable to relate paradigms critically to either local or international contexts. Almost no abilities to identify and discuss key issues and challenges in the changing relationships between the state, public, private and third sectors. Critical abilities to appraise and apply key theoretical concepts of international trends in public administration and management to local and international cases are lacking. A minimum standard of understanding and unable to discuss and debate critical issues relating to either general principles and practices underlying democratic government or to the particular historical, current and future political developments occurring in Hong Kong. Inadequate research, writing, team-work and/or communication skills

Part III

Keyword Syllabus:

Public administration, public management, good governance, New Public Management, modernising government, private sector involvement, performance management, regulatory reform; administrative, policy, and state capacity; Basic Law, ‘one country two systems’, autonomy, executive-led government, democracy, politics-administration dichotomy, relationship between politicians and bureaucrats, Political Official Appointment System in Hong Kong.

Recommended Reading:

Text(s):

1. Bovaird, T. & E. Löffler (2009). *Public Management and Governance*. New York : Routledge
2. Burns, J.P. (2004) *Government Capacity and the Hong Kong Civil Service*. Hong Kong: Oxford University Press.
3. Cheung, A.B.L. (2012) ‘One country, two experiences: administrative reform in Hong Kong and China,’ *International Review of Administrative Sciences* 78(2) 261-282.
4. Diamond, Larry (1999) *Developing Democracy: Towards Consolidation*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, Chapter 1, pp.1-23.
5. Ferlie, E., Lynn, L. E. Jr. and Pollitt, C. (2005) *The Oxford Handbook of Public Management*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
6. Flynn, N. (2012) *Public Sector Management* (6th edition.) London: Sage.
7. Gittings, D. (2013) *Introduction to the Basic Law*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
8. Hay, C., Lister, M. and Marsh, D. (2006) *The State: Theories and Issues*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
9. Hayllar, M.R. (2007) ‘Governance and community engagement in managing SARS in Hong Kong,’ *Asian Journal of Political Science* 15(1) (2007) pp. 39-67.

10. Howlett, M. (2011) *Designing public policies: principles and instruments* /. Abingdon, Oxon ; New York : Routledge.
11. Hughes, O. E. (2012) *Public Management and Administration: an Introduction 4th edition* New York: Palgrave.
12. Lee, E.W.Y and Haque, S. (2006) 'The new public management and governance in Asian NICs: a comparison of Hong Kong and Singapore' *Governance* 19(4) (October 2006), 605-620.
13. Lynn, Laurence E., Jr. (2006) *Public Management: Old and New*. London. Routledge.
14. OECD (2005) *Modernising Government: The Way Forward*. Available at: http://www.oecd.org/document/15/0,2340,en_2649_201185_35405455_1_1_1_1,00.html
15. Painter, M. (2002) "Making Sense of Good Governance", *Public Administration and Policy*, Vol.11, No. 2, pp. 77-100.
16. Peters, B. Guy, (2001) *The Future of Governing: Four Emerging Models* (2nd edition), University Press of Kansas, Ch. 1.
17. Pollitt, C. (2003). *The Essential Public Manager*. Philadelphia : Open University Press.
18. Pollitt, C.and Bouckaert, G. (2011) ***Public Management Reform : a comparative analysis : new public management, governance, and the neo-Weberian state***, Oxford: Oxford University Press
19. Schmitter, Philippe C and Karl Terry Lynn (1991) "What Democracy is and is Not", *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp.75-88.
20. Scott, I. (2005) *Public Administration in Hong Kong: Regime Change and its Impact on the Public Sector*. Singapore: Marshall Cavendish.
21. Scott, I. (2010) *The Public Sector in Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
22. Scott, (2014, forthcoming). 'Political Scandals and the Accountability of the Chief Executive in Hong Kong' *Asian Survey* (October/November 2014)
23. *The Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China*, April, 1990.
24. Wong, W. (2013) 'The Search for a Model of Public Administration in Hong Kong: Weberian Bureaucracy, New Public Management or Something Else,' *Public Administration and Development*, 33(2013), 297-310.
25. Yash Ghai (1999) *Hong Kong's New Constitutional Order, The Resumption of Chinese Sovereignty and the Basic Law*, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2nd edition, Chapter 4, 5 & 7, pp. 137 – 187, 189-230, & 245-302.

Journals and Online Resources:

1. *International Journal of Public Administration*
2. *International Review of Administrative Sciences*
3. *Public Money and Management*
4. *Asian Review of Public Administration*
5. *Public Administration Review*
6. Hong Kong Government website: <http://www.gov.hk>
7. OECD (2005) *Modernising Government: The Way Forward*. Available at: http://www.oecd.org/document/15/0,2340,en_2649_201185_35405455_1_1_1_1,00.html
8. UN Millennium Project 2005. *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*. Available at: <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/reports/fullreport.htm>.