

**City University of Hong Kong**

**Information on a Course  
offered by Department of Public Policy  
with effect from Semester A 2013-14**

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**Part I**

Course Title:	Values and Choices in Public and Social Policy
Course Code:	POL5401
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 the rationale and the context of the study of public policy
- analyse the relationship between the state, society and public policy
- assess policy capacity in Hong Kong
- discuss the concept of globalization and its consequences on public policy
- develop ideas about the relationship between values and the normative basis of public policy
- examine, compare and evaluate different moral principles and ethical theories shaping public policy and service delivery
- enable students to develop their ideas about the moral basis of public policy making in Hong Kong

## 2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	detect the scope, the rationale and the functions of public policy and policy analysis, and define the concept of rationality as used in public policy-making	
2.	examine the major theories of the state: pluralism, corporatism, elitism, Marxism, institutionalism (historical and rational choice), and public choice; and analyse the relationship between the state, society and public policy and its impact on the 'enabling state'	
3.	assess the concept of policy capacity, assess the policy capacity of Hong Kong, and examine the meaning of globalization for its consequence on public policy	
4.	analyse the normative basis of public policy	
5.	examine and compare the major moral principles and ethical theories shaping the public policy process	
6.	apply these moral principles and ethical theories to analyse and assess public policy and service delivery in Hong Kong	

## 3. Teaching and learning Activities (TLAs)

*(designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs)*

ILO No	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
All CILOs	Lectures	
CILO 1,2,3,	Seminars/ class discussion	
CILO 4,5,6	Tutorials	
CILO 5,6	Video documentaries / Films	

## 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.

ILO No	Type of assessment tasks/activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
CILO 1,2,3	Conceptual Essay : 1,500 – 2,000 words	15%	
CILO 4,5,6	Tutorial Participation/Presentation	10%	
CILO 4,5,6	Tutorial Essay : 1,500 - 2,000 words	15%	
CILO 4,5,6	End-of – term examination (2 hrs.)	60%	

**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 the contexts, processes, rationales and ethical basis of public policy formulation in contemporary society. A strong ability to relate this understanding to normative questions and issues in the relationship between the state and the public and its manifestations in the sphere of public policy-making. Strong demonstration of critical ability to appraise and apply key theoretical public policy models and processes to ethical issues in Hong Kong and China. High standards of understanding and of abilities to discuss and debate those issues as they relate both to general ethical principles and practices underlying public policy-making and to particular developments occurring in Hong Kong and China. Very strong research, writing, team-work and communication skills.
B+ B B-	A generally good standard of knowledge and understanding of the contexts, processes, rationales and ethical basis of public policy formulation in contemporary society. A sound ability to relate this understanding to normative questions and issues in the relationship between the state and the public and its manifestations in the sphere of public policy-making. A clear demonstration of critical ability to appraise and apply key theoretical public policy models and processes to ethical issues in Hong Kong and China. A good standard of understanding and of abilities to discuss and debate critical issues as they relate both to general ethical principles and practices underlying public policy-making and to particular developments occurring in Hong Kong and China. Generally competent research, writing, team-work and communication skills.
C+ C C-	Rudimentary knowledge and limited understanding of the contexts, processes, rationales and ethical basis of public policy formulation in contemporary society. A weak ability to relate this understanding to normative questions and issues in the relationship between the state and the public and its manifestations in the sphere of public policy-making. A weak demonstration of critical abilities to appraise and apply key theoretical public policy models and processes to ethical issues in Hong Kong and China. A basic standard of understanding and of abilities to discuss and debate critical issues as they relate both to general ethical principles and practices underlying public policy-making and to particular developments occurring in Hong Kong and China. Research, writing, team-work and communication skills present but at minimum standards.
D	Poor knowledge and very limited understanding of the contexts, processes, rationales and ethical basis of public policy formulation in contemporary society. Very little ability to relate this understanding to normative questions and issues in the relationship between the state and the public and its manifestations in the sphere of public policy-making. Only basic abilities to appraise and apply key theoretical public policy models and processes to ethical issues in Hong Kong and China. Little demonstration of understanding and of abilities to discuss and debate critical issues as they relate both to general ethical principles and practices underlying public policy-making and to particular developments occurring in Hong Kong and China. Underdeveloped research, writing, team-work and communication skills.

F	<p>Almost no knowledge or understanding of the contexts, processes, rationales and ethical basis of public policy formulation in contemporary society. Unable to relate knowledge critically to normative questions and issues in the relationship between the state and the public and its manifestations in the sphere of public policy-making. Almost no abilities to appraise and apply key theoretical public policy models and processes to ethical issues in Hong Kong and China. A minimum standard of understanding and unable to discuss and debate critical issues as they relate both to general ethical principles and practices underlying public policy-making and to particular developments occurring in Hong Kong and China. Inadequate research, writing, team-work and/or communication skills</p>
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### Part III

#### Keyword Syllabus:

Public policy; policy analysis; welfare state; pluralism; corporatism; elitism, Marxism; institutionalism; public choice; policy capacity; globalization, utilitarianism, human rights, minimal state, welfare liberalism and social justice, feminism and gender equality, communitarianism and the common good, Confucian *ren* and rule of virtue

#### Recommended Reading:

Text(s):

1. Bowie, Norman and Simon, Robert *The Individual and the Political Order: An Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (Rowan and Littlefield Publishers, 1998)
2. Beauchamp, Tom L. and Pinkard, Terry P. (eds.) *Ethics and Public Policy* (Prentice-Hall, 1983)
3. Cerny, P. et al *Institutionalising Globalization* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005)
4. Westerfield, Robert E. (ed.) *Current Issues in Globalization* (New York: Nova, 2005)
5. Cheung A.B.L. and I. Scott (eds) *Governance and Public Sector Reform in Asia* London: RoutledgeCurzon, 2003)
6. Gertzen, Larry N. *Public Policy Making* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Armonk, New York: M.E Sharpe, 2004)
7. Gilbert, N. *Transformation of the Welfare State* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002)
8. Li,Chenyang *The Tao Encounters the West*, (State University of New York Press, 1999)
9. Painter, M. and J. Pierre (eds) *Challenges to State Policy Capacity* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005)
10. Wolff, Jonathan *An Introduction to Political Philosophy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996)

#### Online Resources:

<http://www.gov.hk>