

City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

offered by Department of Public Policy
with effect from Semester A 2017/18

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Theories of Government and Public Administration

Course Code: POL5101

Course Duration: one semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

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, China, and related countries.
- enable students to analyse public administration/management issues with reference to the respective historical, political, economic and social environments, and to recommend possible approaches for resolving the problems

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.	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’		X	X	
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		X	X	
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, China, and related countries.		X	X	X
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		X	X	X
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		X	X	
6	Review critically and evaluate the meaning and key features of democratic government and of political developments in Hong Kong and China		X	X	X
		100%			

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	4	5	6	
1. Readings	Students will be expected to read essential readings on all topics	x	x	x		x	x	
2. 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's and China's practices and developments	x	x	x		x	x	
3. 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	x		x	x	x	x	
4. Short Essays	Each student will be required to write one short (2,000- 2,500 words) essay on topics set by the lecturers.	x		x	x	x	x	
5. Canvas	On-line availability of key lecture and presentation materials	x	x	x	x	x	x	

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	4	5	6		
Continuous Assessment: 50%								
2,000-2,500 word individual paper	x		x	x	x	x	25	
Oral presentation and write-up of presentation	x		x	x	x	x	25	
Examination: 50% (duration: 2 hrs)								
Examination	x	x	x		x	x	50	
							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)
Individual Paper Oral Presentation and write-up	Quality of the presentation and paper	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 and China. Very strong research, writing, team-work and communication skills.	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 and China. Generally competent research, writing, team-work and communication skills.	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 and China. Research, writing, team-work and communication skills present but at minimum standards.	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 and China. Underdeveloped research, writing, team-work and communication skills.	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 and China. Inadequate research, writing, team-work and/or communication skills

Examination	Quality of the examination	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 and China.	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 and China.	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 and China.	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 and China.	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 and China.
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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.)

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

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. Bernstein, Thomas P. and Xiaobo Lü (2008) *Taxation without Representation in Contemporary Rural China*. Cambridge Press: Modern China Series.
2. Bovaird, T. & E. Löffler (2009). *Public Management and Governance*. New York : Routledge
3. Burns, J.P. (2004) *Government Capacity and the Hong Kong Civil Service*. Hong Kong: Oxford University Press.
4. 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.
5. Diamond, Larry (1999) *Developing Democracy: Towards Consolidation*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, Chapter 1, pp.1-23.
6. Erie, Matthew (2012). "Property Rights, Legal Consciousness, and New Media in China: The Hard Case of the 'Toughest Nail-House in History'." *China Information*, 26 (1): 34-58
7. Ferlie, E., Lynn, L. E. Jr. and Pollitt, C. (2005) *The Oxford Handbook of Public Management*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
8. Flynn, N. (2012) *Public Sector Management* (6th edition.) London: Sage.
9. Gittings, D. (2013) *Introduction to the Basic Law*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
10. Hay, C., Lister, M. and Marsh, D. (2006) *The State: Theories and Issues*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
11. 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.
12. Howlett, M. (2011) *Designing public policies: principles and instruments* /. Abingdon, Oxon ; New York : Routledge.
13. Hughes, O. E. (2012) *Public Management and Administration: an Introduction 4th edition*) New York: Palgrave.
14. 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.

15. Lynn, Laurence E., Jr. (2006) *Public Management: Old and New*. London. Routledge.
16. 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
17. Painter, M. (2002) "Making Sense of Good Governance", *Public Administration and Policy*, Vol.11, No. 2, pp. 77-100.
18. Peters, B. Guy, (2001) *The Future of Governing: Four Emerging Models* (2nd edition), University Press of Kansas, Ch. 1.
19. Pollitt, C. (2003). *The Essential Public Manager*. Philadelphia : Open University Press.
20. 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
21. Saich, Tony (2010. third edition), *Governance and Politics of China*, Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.
22. Schmitter, Philippe C and Karl Terry Lynn (1991) "What Democracy is and is Not", *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp.75-88.
23. Scott, I. (2005) *Public Administration in Hong Kong: Regime Change and its Impact on the Public Sector*. Singapore: Marshall Cavendish.
24. Scott, I. (2010) *The Public Sector in Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
25. Scott, I. (2014, forthcoming). 'Political Scandals and the Accountability of the Chief Executive in Hong Kong' *Asian Survey* (October/November 2014)
26. Scott, James (1998) *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. Yale University Press, 1998.
27. *The Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China*, April, 1990.
28. 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.
29. 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.
30. Zang Xiaowei (2011), *Understanding Chinese Society* (London: Routledge).

2.2 Additional Readings

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

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>.