

**City University of Hong Kong  
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Public Policy  
with effect from Semester B 2017/2018**

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**Part I Course Overview**

**Course Title:** Urban Finance and Budgeting

**Course Code:** POL5502

**Course Duration:** One Semester

**Credit Units:** 3

**Level:** P5

**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)* None

**Exclusive Courses:**  
*(Course Code and Title)* None

## Part II Course Details

### 1. Abstract

- explain the key concepts, core issues, principles, and processes in urban finance and budgeting;
- understand the objectives of urban financial and budgeting management and detect the problems and shortfalls of traditional approaches of urban financial management and budgeting;
- analyze past and current trends in financial and budgetary management reforms happening in both Hong Kong and international cities;
- understand the practice and issues of urban financial and budgeting management in Hong Kong and other big cities with a view to critically evaluating them with the relevant knowledge and techniques.

### 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.	Infer knowledge about the concepts, principles, frameworks, and politics in the process of urban budgeting			X	X
2.	Outline the main issues and changes in urban budgeting		X		
3.	Compare financial and budgeting reforms in Hong Kong and in big cities of OECD countries and interpret the local and international trends in the reforms		X	X	X
4.	Critique the critical issues in financial management reforms (including performance, costs and devolution) in big cities		X	X	X
5.	Identify the depth and breadth of knowledge of practical problems in urban finance and budgeting		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	
Readings	1. At least 2 book chapters or articles for each lecture 2. Lecture notes uploaded on the Blackboard for each lecture 3. Websites of city governments	x	x	x	x		Vary from student to student.
Lectures & discussion	Lectures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of concepts, principles, frameworks, ideas, based on academic literature</li> </ul> Classroom short-discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Questions raised by students and responses by the lecturer and other students</li> </ul>	x	x	x	x		2 hours per week
Group presentation	1. Analysis and debates on main issues on selected topics 2. Questions and answers		x	x	x	x	1 hour per week
Group report	1. Each group has to write up an approximately 4,000 word group report, based on its group presentation 2. Comments from the lecturer		x	x	x	x	N/A

### 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		
Continuous Assessment: 30%							
Group report (3500-4500 Words)/presentation		x	x	x	x	25%	
Class participation/attendance		x	x	x	x	5%	
Examination: 70% (duration: 2 hrs, if applicable)							
						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)
Group report		High standard of knowledge of the core concepts, principles, and techniques in urban finance and budgeting management, the different approaches to budgeting of city governments, financial and budgetary reforms in big cities. Excellent writing, presentation, and research skills.	Fairly good understanding of core concepts, principles, and techniques in urban finance and budgeting management, the different approaches to budgeting of city governments, financial and budgetary reforms in big cities. Good writing, presentation, and research skills.	Rudimentary understanding of the core concepts, principles, and techniques in urban finance and budgeting management, the different approaches to budgeting of city governments, financial and budgetary reforms in big cities. Basic writing, presentation, and research skills.	Poor understanding of the core concepts, principles, and techniques in urban finance and budgeting management, the different approaches to budgeting of city governments, financial and budgetary reforms in big cities. Weak writing, presentation, and research skills.	Almost no knowledge of the core concepts, principles, and techniques in urban finance and budgeting management, the different approaches to budgeting of city governments, financial and budgetary reforms in big cities. Inadequate writing, presentation, and research skills.

### 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.)

Frameworks, concepts, relationships, and roles in public financial management. Budgetary principles, processes, and politics. Issues in urban or public budgeting. Financial management in Hong Kong before and after 1997. Budgeting for results and performance in city governments. Managing devolution of fiscal powers and responsibilities in city governments. Values for public financial auditing. New Public Management and financial and budgetary reforms in cities of OECD countries. Financial and budgetary reforms in selected Asian cities.

#### 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. Mikesell, John. (2011). "Fiscal Administration" Boston: MA: Wadsworth (This book has been updated frequently, but any edition since the 8<sup>th</sup> edition will be fine).
2. Rubin, Irene (2010). "The Politics of Public Budgeting" Chatham, NJ: Chatham House Publishers (This book has been updated frequently, try to use the latest edition)
3. Wang, XiaoHu (2014). "Financial Management in the Public Sector" 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Armonk, New York: Routledge
4. Scott, Ian (2010). "The Public Sector in Hong Kong." Hong Kong, University of Hong Kong Press
5. Wai-man, Lam, Lui, Luen-tim, and Wong, Wilson. (2012) "Contemporary Hong Kong Government and Politics." Hong Kong: University of Hong Kong Press.
6. Wilson Wong. 2009. "The Days after the End of the Asian Miracle: The Budget Crisis of Hong Kong," in Sing Ming, ed., *Politics and Government in Hong Kong: Crisis under Chinese Sovereignty*. (UK: Routledge). Available through the Blackboard
7. Anthony Cheung. 2006. "Budgetary Reforms in Two City States: Impact on the Central Budget Agency in Hong Kong and Singapore," *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, 72(3): 341-361.
8. Lam, N. M. K. (2000) "The Changing Functions of Public Budgeting in Hong Kong," *Public Administration and Policy*, Vol. 9, No. 2, September, pp. 1-26.
9. Lui, Richard, Kwok-Man (2008). "New Public Management in Hong Kong: Financial, Personal and Performance Aspects," Conference paper on "New Public Management and Quality of Government."
10. Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, HKSAR Government. (June 2007) *Final Report of Public Consultation on Tax Reform* (available at: <http://www.fstb.gov.hk/tb/eng/press/content.html>)

##### 2.2 Additional Readings

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

1. SynergyNet (2013), "Review of Hong Kong's Public Finances 2013". Available at: [http://www.synergynet.org.hk/file/file/Public\\_Finance\\_Report\\_2013.pdf](http://www.synergynet.org.hk/file/file/Public_Finance_Report_2013.pdf) (in Chinese)
2. SynergyNet (2012), "Review of Hong Kong's Public Finances 2012". Available at: [http://www.synergynet.org.hk/pdf/201201292672\\_b5.pdf](http://www.synergynet.org.hk/pdf/201201292672_b5.pdf) (in Chinese)
3. *Hong Kong 2010*, Chapter 3 "The Economy", Chapter 4 "Financial and Monetary Affairs" and Appendix 6: Tables 6, 7, 8 and Charts 1 and 2 (available on the HKSAR Government

- website at: <http://www.yearbook.gov.hk/2010/en/index.html>.)
4. Legislative Council website: <http://www.legco.gov.hk/english/index.htm>
  5. Annual Budget website: [http://www.budget.gov.hk/Annual Estimates](http://www.budget.gov.hk/Annual%20Estimates) website:  
<http://www.budget.gov.hk/2013/eng/estimates.html>
  6. Tax Reform in Hong Kong website: <http://www.taxreform.gov.hk/eng/news.htm>
  7. Hong Kong Financial Services and Treasury Bureau:  
<http://www.fstb.gov.hk/tb/eng/press/content.html>
  8. Hong Kong Government Public Finance Fact Sheet:  
[http://www.gov.hk/en/about/abouthk/factsheets/docs/public\\_finance.pdf](http://www.gov.hk/en/about/abouthk/factsheets/docs/public_finance.pdf)
  9. HK Financial Services & Treasury Bureau <http://www.fstb.gov.hk/eng/sfst/fstb.html>
  10. Efficiency Unit (HK) <http://www.eu.gov.hk>
  11. Financial and Budgeting Management in OECD Countries & Cities <http://www.oecd.org>