

City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

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

Part I Course Overview

Course Title:	Politics and Public Policy
Course Code:	POL8616
Course Duration:	one semester
Credit Units:	3
Level:	R8
Proposed Area: <i>(for GE courses only)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Humanities <input type="checkbox"/> Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations <input type="checkbox"/> Science and Technology
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Precursors: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Equivalent Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Exclusive Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

Analysts of political science and public policy use theories as a means of understanding complex realities. Theories are helpful because they enable us to structure the way we think, to see relationships, to ask relevant questions and to provide explanations of political and policy phenomena. What theories we use will often depend on what we are trying to understand or explain and they may not always be adequate for our purpose. We may find that our initial theory needs to be modified or that empirical material suggests that other theoretical explanations are more plausible. Most scholars have an open mind on these matters and approach research questions in a pragmatic manner: the best theory is the one that provides the most convincing ordering and explanation of the data.

The aims of this course are to think of the world in dynamic terms and, drawing upon a range of disciplines and theories, to explore critically the interconnections between different areas of politics and policy. This includes: (1) introducing the principles and theories of political science and public policy, (2) developing a critical understanding of theory and its limitations, (3) analysing the relevance of the major theories and the key drivers of contemporary issues that are reshaping politics and policy, and the ways in which this connects with real world problems.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

No.	CILOs [#]	Weighting* (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Synthesize and evaluate political science and public policy theories	25%	x	x	
2.	Critically evaluate diverse source materials on political science and public policy	25%	x	x	
3.	Critically analyze political theory and policy knowledge and apply to contemporary issues	25%	x	x	
4.	Apply knowledge of the course material to enrich research and theory building, particularly with respect to PhD dissertations and publications	15%		x	x
5.	Develop critical thinking and communication skills needed for dissertations and publications.	10%		x	x
...					
		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)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.					Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	5	
Lecturing	Lecturing	x	x	X			
Extensive reading	Extensive reading	x	x	X			
Student presentation	Student presentation	x	x	x	x		
Participation in class discussion	Participation in class discussion	x	x	x	x		
Essay writing	Essay writing	x	x	X	x	x	
Blackboard/Consultation	Blackboard/Consultation	x	x	X	x	x	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.					Weighting*	Remarks
	1	2	3	4	5		
Continuous Assessment: <u>100</u> %							
Presentation and participation	x	X	x	x	x	40%	
Essay Writing	x	X	x	x	X	60%	
Examination: _____% (duration: _____, if applicable)							
* The weightings should add up to 100%.						100%	

5. Assessment Rubrics

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Reading, class presentations, and short essays	Demonstration of knowledge and skills required for original and creative research and capacity for critical review of literature and empirical findings.	Excellent	Good	Moderate	Basic	Poor
2. Research design (5,000 words or so)	Ability to apply creative and critical thinking skills to research design and engage in theoretically-informed and empirically sound informed analysis.	Excellent	Good	Moderate	Basic	Poor

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

1. Keyword Syllabus

The role of theory, the state and civil society, power, political institutions, legitimacy of power and moral order, institutionalism and path-dependency, political culture and behavior, neo-liberalism, globalization and local politics, governance and public management, public policy, sustainability and climate change, health, poverty and marginality, risk, demography, social conflict.

2. Reading List

Recommended Reading:

- Gill, G. (2003). *The Nature and Development of the State*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Peters, B.G. (2005). *Institutional Theory in Political Science: 'The New Institutionalism'* 2nd edition. London: Continuum
- Dahl, R. A. 1989. *Democracy and its Critics* (New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Frederickson, H.G. and K.B. Smith, (2003). *Public Administration Theory Primer*. Boulder, Co.: Westview Press.
- Marsh D. and G. Stoker eds. 2002. *Theory and Methods in Political Science* 2nd edition. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Pierson, P. (2004). *Politics in Time: History and Institutions and Social Analysis* Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Pierson, C. (2004). *The Modern State* 2nd edition London: Routledge.
- Migdal, S. J. (2001). *State in Society: Studying How States and Societies Transform and Constitute One Another*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Doogan, K. (2009) *New Capitalism? The Transformation of Work* Cambridge: Polity Press
- Kennett, P. (Ed.) (2008) *Governance, Globalization and Public Policy*, Edward Elgar
- LaFleur, V., Purvis, N. and Jones, A. (2009) *Double Jeopardy: What Climate Change Means for the Poor*, Washington DC: Brookings
- Mishra, R. (1999) *Globalization and the Welfare State* Edward Elgar Publishing Limited Glos.
- Mols, P.J. (2008) *Environmental Reform in the Information Age; The Contours of Informational Governance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Nayyar, D. and Court, J. (2002) *Governing Globalization: Issues and Institutions* Helsinki: UN-Wider
Downloadable from: http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/policy-briefs/en_GB/policy-briefs/
- Ramesh, M (2004), *Social Policy in East and Southeast Asia: Education, Health, Housing and Income Maintenance*, London; New York: RoutledgeCurzon
- Ronit, Karsten, *Global Public Policy: Business and the Countervailing Powers of Civil Society* (Oxford: Routledge, 2007) Ch.1
- Stalker, P. (2000) *Workers Without Frontiers: The Impact of Globalization on International Migration*, International Labour Organization

- Stern, N. (2007) *The Economics of Climate Change*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/stern_review_report.htm
- Stiglitz, J (2002) *Globalization and its Discontents* London: Allen Lane
- Whitman, J. (2005) *The Limits of Global Governance* London: Routledge
- Stubbs, R. and Underhill, G (Eds.) (2006 edition) *Political Economy and the Changing Global Order* Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Weiss, L. (2003) *States in the Global Economy: Bringing Domestic Institutions Back In*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Wilkinson, R. (Ed) (2005) *The Global Governance Reader* London: Routledge

Online Resources

- Brookings** <http://www.brookings.edu/>
- Institute for Public Policy Research** <http://www.ippr.org.uk/>
- OECD** <http://www.oecd.org/home>
- RAND Public Policy Research** <http://www.rand.org/research>
- UNFPA** <http://www.unfpa.org/public>
- UN-Wider** http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/en_GB/index/
- World Bank** <http://www.worldbank.org/>