

# PIA5101: THEORIES OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Theories of Government and Public Administration

### Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

### Course Number

5101

### Academic Unit

Public and International Affairs (PIA)

### College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

3

### Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

### Medium of Instruction

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

POL5101 Theories of Government and Public Administration

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### 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 and private sectors;
- apply the theories of government, governance and public administration / management to the empirical world.

#### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
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' in light of the public interest		x	x	
2	Understand the nature of recent trends in the changing roles and relationships between the state, public and private sectors, the reasons for these and their practical implications		x	x	
3	Apply concepts and theories of government, governance and public administration / management to the empirical world.		x	x	x

#### 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 real-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.

#### Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Readings	Students will be expected to read essential readings on all topics	1, 2, 3

2	Lectures	Lectures will enable students to acquire knowledge of key concepts and theories of public administration / management governance political systems and political institutions.	1, 2, 3	
3	In-class discussions	Students will form groups to discuss tutorial questions	1, 2, 3	
4	Essay	Each student will be required to write an essay (1,800-2000 words) to respond to a tutorial question.	1, 2, 3	

**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	In-class discussion	1, 2, 3	10	formative; any generative AI use has to be declared and referenced	Yes
2	Individual paper (1,800-2,000 words)	1, 2, 3	40	summative	No
3	Test	1, 2, 3	50	summative	No

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

In-class discussion (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 &amp; thereafter)

**Criterion**

Analytical response to the tutorial question in discussion and writing

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Comprehensive understanding and critical analysis of government' s operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Excellent research, writing and communication skills.

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Fairly good understanding and analysis of government' s operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Fairly good research, writing and communication skills.

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Rudimentary understanding and analysis of government' s operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Rudimentary research, writing and communication skills.

### **Marginal**

(D) Poor understanding and analysis of government's operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Poor research, writing and communication skills.

### **Failure**

(F) Almost no understanding and analysis of government's operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Bad research, writing and communication skills.

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### **Assessment Task**

Individual Paper (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

### **Criterion**

Analytical response to the tutorial question in discussion and writing

### **Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Comprehensive understanding and critical analysis of government's operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Excellent research, writing and communication skills.

### **Good**

(B+, B, B-) Fairly good understanding and analysis of government's operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Fairly good research, writing and communication skills.

### **Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Rudimentary understanding and analysis of government's operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Rudimentary research, writing and communication skills.

### **Marginal**

(D) Poor understanding and analysis of government's operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Poor research, writing and communication skills.

### **Failure**

(F) Almost no understanding and analysis of government's operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Bad research, writing and communication skills.

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### **Assessment Task**

Test (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

### **Criterion**

Quality of responses to test questions

### **Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Comprehensive understanding and critical analysis of government's operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Excellent writing and analytical skills.

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Fairly good understanding and analysis of government' s operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Fairly good writing and analytical skills.

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Rudimentary understanding and analysis of government' s operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Rudimentary writing and analytical skills.

**Marginal**

(D) Poor understanding and analysis of government' s operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Poor writing and analytical skills.

**Failure**

(F) Almost no understanding and analysis of government' s operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Bad writing and analytical skills.

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**Assessment Task**

In-class discussion (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

**Criterion**

Analytical response to the tutorial question in discussion and writing

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Comprehensive understanding and critical analysis of government' s operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Excellent research, writing and communication skills.

**Good**

(B+, B) Fairly good understanding and analysis of government' s operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Fairly good research, writing and communication skills.

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Rudimentary understanding and analysis of government' s operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Rudimentary research, writing and communication skills.

**Failure**

(F) Almost no understanding and analysis of government' s operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Bad research, writing and communication skills.

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**Assessment Task**

Individual Paper (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

**Criterion**

Analytical response to the tutorial question in discussion and writing

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Comprehensive understanding and critical analysis of government’ s operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Excellent research, writing and communication skills.

**Good**

(B+, B) Fairly good understanding and analysis of government’ s operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Fairly good research, writing and communication skills.

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Rudimentary understanding and analysis of government’ s operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Rudimentary research, writing and communication skills.

**Failure**

(F) Almost no understanding and analysis of government’ s operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Bad research, writing and communication skills.

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**Assessment Task**

Test (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

**Criterion**

Quality of responses to test questions

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Comprehensive understanding and critical analysis of government’ s operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Excellent writing and analytical skills.

**Good**

(B+, B) Fairly good understanding and analysis of government’ s operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Fairly good writing and analytical skills.

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(B-, C+, C) Rudimentary understanding and analysis of government’ s operations political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Rudimentary writing and analytical skills.

**Failure**

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**Part III Other Information**

**Keyword Syllabus**

Public administration, public management, good governance, civil service, public sector, private sector, public values, regime types, political institutions, electoral systems, political participation, civic engagement policy processes international organisations sustainable development goals

## Reading List

### Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Fong, Brian C. H. 2015. Hong Kong' s governance under Chinese sovereignty: The failure of the state-business alliance after 1997. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.
2	Haglund, Jillienne. 2021. "International Organizations." In Political Science Is for Everybody: An Introduction to Political Science, edited by Amy I. Atchison, 377-400. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
3	Hague, Rod, Martin Harrop, and John McCormick. 2016. Comparative Government and Politics. 10th ed. London: Palgrave.
4	Hughes, Owen E.. 2012. Public Management and Administration: An Introduction. 4th ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
5	Knill, Christoph, and Jale Tosun. 2012. Public Policy: A New Introduction. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, Ch.3.
6	Lee, Eliza W.Y., Elaine Y.M. Chan, Joseph C.W. Chan, Peter T.Y. Cheung, Wai Fung Lam, and Wai Man Lam. 2012. Public Policymaking in Hong Kong: Civic Engagement and State-Society Relations in a Semi-Democracy. London: Routledge.
7	Møller, Jørgen, and Svend-Erik Skaaning. 2013. "Regime Types and Democratic Sequencing." Journal of Democracy 24 (1): 142-155.
8	Nanda, Ved P. 2006. "The "Good Governance" Concept Revisited." The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science 603: 269-283.
9	Schillemans, Thomas. 2015. "Managing Public Accountability: How Public Managers Manage Public Accountability." International Journal of Public Administration 38 (6): 433-441.
10	Vyas, Lina, and Sabrina Luk. 2012. "The protruding implications of privatization: attractive potentials leading to unpleasant consequences." Journal of Asian Public Policy 5 (3): 322-332.
11	Yang, Hongxing, and Dingxin Zhao. 2015. "Performance Legitimacy, State Autonomy and China's Economic Miracle." Journal of Contemporary China 24 (91): 64-82.

### Additional Readings

	Title
1	Acemoglu, Daron, and James A. Robinson. 2019. The narrow corridor: states, societies, and the fate of liberty. New York: Penguin Books.
2	Bovaird, Tony & E. Löffler (2009). Public Management and Governance. New York : Routledge
3	della Porta, Donatella, and Mario Diani. 2006. Social Movements: An Introduction. 2nd ed. Oxford: Blackwell.
4	Diamond, Larry Jay. 2002. "Thinking About Hybrid Regimes." Journal of Democracy 13 (2): 21-35.
5	Diamond, Larry Jay. 2019. Ill Winds: Saving Democracy from Russian Rage, Chinese Ambition, and American Complacency. New York: Penguin Books.
6	Ekiert, Grzegorz, Elizabeth J. Perry, and Xiaojun Yan, eds. 2020. Ruling by other means: state-mobilized movements. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
7	Fung, Courtney J. 2019. China and Intervention at the UN Security Council: Reconciling Status. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
8	Haggard, Stephan, and Robert R. Kaufman. 1995. The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
9	Lee, Eliza W. Y. 2020. "State-Mobilized Campaign and the Prodemocracy Movement in Hong Kong, 2013–2015." In Ruling by Other Means: State-mobilized Movements, edited by Grzegorz Ekiert, Elizabeth J. Perry and Xiaojun Yan, 291-313. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

10	Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan A. Way. 2002. "Elections Without Democracy: The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 13 (2): 51-65.
11	Mainwaring, Scott. November 1989. <i>Transitions to Democracy and Democratic Consolidation: Theoretical and Comparative Issues</i> . Kellogg Institute.
12	Ortmann, Stephan, and Mark R. Thompson. 2014. "China's obsession with Singapore: learning authoritarian modernity." <i>The Pacific Review</i> 27 (3): 433-455.
13	Pei, Minxin. 2021. "China: Totalitarianism's Long Shadow." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 32 (2): 5-21.
14	Scott, Ian. 2010. <i>The Public Sector in Hong Kong</i> . Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
15	Journals and Online Resources:
16	<i>International Journal of Public Administration</i>
17	<i>International Review of Administrative Sciences</i>
18	<i>Public Money and Management</i>
19	<i>Asian Review of Public Administration</i>
20	<i>Public Administration Review</i>
21	Hong Kong Government website: <a href="http://www.gov.hk">http://www.gov.hk</a>
22	OECD (2005) <i>Modernising Government: The Way Forward</i> . Available at: <a href="http://www.oecd.org/document/15/0,2340,en_2649_201185_35405455_1_1_1_1,00.html">http://www.oecd.org/document/15/0,2340,en_2649_201185_35405455_1_1_1_1,00.html</a>
23	United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, <a href="https://sdgs.un.org/goals">https://sdgs.un.org/goals</a>