

PIA5701: COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL HOUSING AND URBAN POLICY

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Comparative and International Housing and Urban Policy

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

5701

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

POL5701 Comparative and International Housing and Urban Policy

Exclusive Courses

None

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to provide students with an opportunity to understand the four different fundamental institutions in welfare capitalism as liberal welfare state, conservative welfare state, social-democratic welfare state and developmental state, and to compare the international urban and housing policy from different countries that are embedded in the four fundamental institutions, such as economic domain (smart cities), social domain (community and citizenship), cultural domain (the vernacular, the heritage, the nostalgia, the spectacle) of urban policy, public housing policy, homeownership, slums and informal settlements etc. At the end of this course students are expected to integrate conceptual and theoretical frameworks with ability to compare and explore major housing and urban policies in both Western industrial economies, East Asian countries, global north and global south in the analysis.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1 Describe and analyse housing and urban systems that are based on four fundamental welfare institutions such as liberal welfare state, conservative welfare state, social-democratic welfare state and developmental state		x		
2 Analyse key issues in international housing and urban policies, for instance, in the areas of smart cities, community and citizenship, public and private housing, and slums and informal settlement etc.				x
3 Further compare and explore specific cases (for instance cities) that are embedded in the four fundamental welfare institutions and outline policy and practice of urban and housing development in local and international dimensions;				x
4 Apply conceptual and theoretical framework with the ability in the analysis of housing and urban policy and practice and its relation with welfare capitalisms.			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	Read relevant readings before each lecture and seminar session.	1, 2, 3, 4	3

2	Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - acquire knowledge of the concepts, values, and development of housing and urban policy; - develop your analytical and critical capabilities to discuss issues in housing and urban policy.; - apply the theoretical knowledge to analyse empirical cases. 	1, 2, 3, 4	2
3	e-learning platform	On-line availability of lecture materials, questions, response, debate, and discussion on readings, lectures materials, and contemporary issues related to housing and urban policy.	1, 2, 3, 4	0.5
4	seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - analyse and debate on key issues and concerns in the field of housing and urban policy.; - apply the theories to analyse issues in the case studies selected.; - generate new ideas on selected topics in which they will conduct research and analysis. 	1, 2, 3, 4	2

5	Group work	A combination of group work; problem-based investigation, group discussion and team learning: - you will be divided into groups and give a presentation of a topic related to housing and urban policy. - to promote problem-based and team learning, apart from a presentation, you will be assigned to prepare a commentary and critic notes on others' presentation and present on tutorial class.; - you will comment on each other's performance and appraise your classmates' participation in tutorials, presentation skills, and research analysis.	1, 2, 3, 4	2
6	Essay-writing	You have to compose an individual paper of 3000-4000 words, based on the reading lists provided.	1, 2, 3, 4	1.5

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Participation and Attendance	1, 2, 3, 4	15	-	Yes
2	Team project: Seminar presentation and paper (3000-4000 words)	1, 2, 3, 4	50	-	No
3	Test	1, 2, 3, 4	35	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Seminar presentation and class participation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Capacity to organize time, communicate effectively, cooperate with classmates

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent knowledge of the four fundamental welfare institutions in analysing and comparing the international urban and housing policy; strong ability to engage with major challenges facing housing and urban policy and built environment; excellent research and communication skills to organize and generate new perspectives and present ideas orally; highly innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing and urban policy issues.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Satisfactory performance in applying the knowledge of four fundamental welfare institutions to analyse and compare international urban and housing policy; fair ability to engage with major challenges facing housing and urban policy and built environment; good research and communication skills to organise and generate new perspectives and present ideas orally; fairly innovative and new ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing and urban issues.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Only basic and limited knowledge on the four fundamental welfare institutions and limited ability to apply to compare and analyse the international urban and housing policy; Superficial analysis of the basic materials; Generally acceptable standard of research and communication skills to organise and generate perspectives and present ideas orally with some limitations; very little innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing and urban issues.

Marginal

(D) Very limited understanding of basic knowledge on housing and urban policy demonstrated; Occasionally irrelevant materials and theories presented with some inappropriate examples; Marginal standard of research, writing and communication skill with a number of limitations; very limited and almost no innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing problems and issues

Failure

(F) Almost no knowledge of housing and urban policy; Almost no ability to identify key challenges; Inadequate research, writing and communication skills; no innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing and urban issues

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Ability to consider in depth one particular aspect of the course and gather information independently from a wide variety of sources

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent knowledge of the concepts and theories that influence the operation of the comparison on the cases selected on international urban and housing policy; Strong ability to identify key challenges on topics of smart cities, community and citizenship, public housing, and slums and informal settlements etc. to make comparison on different international cities that are embedded in different fundamental welfare institutions; Excellent research, writing and communication skills to organize and generate new perspectives present ideas orally and in written papers; Highly innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing urban and housing issues.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Satisfactory performance in applying the knowledge of four fundamental welfare institutions to analyse and compare international urban and housing policy; fair ability to engage with major challenges facing housing and urban policy and built environment; good research and communication skills to organise and generate new perspectives and present ideas orally; fairly innovative and new ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing and urban issues.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Only basic and limited knowledge theories on the operation of urban and housing policy; Superficial analysis of the basic materials; Generally acceptable standard of research, writing and communication skills with some limitations; Very little innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing and comparing urban and housing issues

Marginal

(D) Very limited understanding of basic knowledge on housing and urban policy demonstrated; Occasionally irrelevant materials and theories presented with some inappropriate examples; Marginal standard of research, writing and communication skill with a number of limitations; very limited and almost no innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing problems and issues

Failure

(F) Almost no knowledge of housing and urban policy; Almost no ability to identify key challenges; Inadequate research, writing and communication skills; no innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing and urban issues

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Demonstrate familiarity with and understanding of the CILOs and show ability to reflect upon appropriate range of issues regarding comparative and international housing policy

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent knowledge of the four fundamental welfare institutions in analysing and comparing the international urban and housing policy; strong ability to engage with major challenges facing housing and urban policy and built environment; excellent research and communication skills to organize and generate new perspectives and present ideas orally; highly innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing and urban policy issues.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Satisfactory performance in applying the knowledge of variables, concepts and theories that influence the operation of the housing and urban policy; fair ability to identify key challenges; good research, writing and communication skills with some potential to develop critical, and independent analysis; fairly innovative and new ideas and critical attitude in analysing and comparing urban and housing issues

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Only basic and limited knowledge on urban and housing policy theories on the operation of housing market; Superficial analysis of the basic materials; Generally acceptable standard of research, writing and communication skills with some limitations; Very little innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing issues

Marginal

(D) Very limited understanding of basic knowledge on housing and urban policy demonstrated; Occasionally irrelevant materials and theories presented with some inappropriate examples; Marginal standard of research, writing and communication skill with a number of limitations; very limited and almost no innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing and comparing urban and housing problems and issues

Failure

(F) Almost no knowledge of housing and urban policy; Almost no ability to identify key challenges; Inadequate research, writing and communication skills; no innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing and urban issues

Assessment Task

Seminar presentation and class participation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Capacity to organize time, communicate effectively, cooperate with classmates

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent knowledge of the four fundamental welfare institutions in analysing and comparing the international urban and housing policy; strong ability to engage with major challenges facing housing and urban policy and built environment; excellent research and communication skills to organize and generate new perspectives and present ideas orally; highly innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing and urban policy issues.

Good

(B+, B) Satisfactory performance in applying the knowledge of four fundamental welfare institutions to analyse and compare international urban and housing policy; fair ability to engage with major challenges facing housing and urban policy and built environment; good research and communication skills to organise and generate new perspectives and present ideas orally; fairly innovative and new ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing and urban issues.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Only basic and limited knowledge on the four fundamental welfare institutions and limited ability to apply to compare and analyse the international urban and housing policy; Superficial analysis of the basic materials; Generally acceptable standard of research and communication skills to organise and generate perspectives and present ideas orally with some limitations; very little innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing and urban issues.

Failure

(F) Almost no knowledge of the four fundamental welfare institutions and no ability to apply for comparing and analysing international housing and urban policy; Almost no ability to identify key challenges; Inadequate research and communication skills; no innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing housing and urban issues

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Ability to consider in depth one particular aspect of the course and gather information independently from a wide variety of sources

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent knowledge of the concepts and theories that influence the operation of the comparison on the cases selected on international urban and housing policy; Strong ability to identify key challenges on topics of smart cities, community and citizenship, public housing,, and slums and informal settlements etc. to make comparison on different international cities that are embedded in different fundamental welfare institutions; Excellent research, writing and communication skills to organize and generate new perspectives present ideas orally and in written papers; Highly innovative ideas and critical attitude in analyzing urban and housing issues.

Good

(B+, B) Satisfactory performance in applying the knowledge of variables, concepts and theories that influence the operation of the housing and urban policy; fair ability to identify key challenges; good research, writing and communication skills with some potential to develop critical, and independent analysis; fairly innovative and new ideas and critical attitude in analyzing and comparing urban and housing issues

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Only basic and limited knowledge theories on the operation of urban and housing policy; Superficial analysis of the basic materials; Generally acceptable standard of research, writing and communication skills with some limitations; Very little innovative ideas and critical attitude in analyzing and comparing urban and housing issues

Failure

(F) Very limited understanding of basic knowledge on housing and urban policy demonstrated; Occasionally irrelevant materials and theories presented with some inappropriate examples; Marginal standard of research, writing and communication skill with a number of limitations; very limited and almost no innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing and comparing urban and housing problems and issues

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Demonstrate familiarity with and understanding of the CIOs and show ability to reflect upon appropriate range of issues regarding comparative and international housing policy

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent knowledge of the concepts and theories that influence the operation of the urban and housing policy; Strong ability to identify key challenges; Excellent research, writing and communication skills to organize and generate new perspectives present ideas orally and in written papers; Highly innovative ideas and critical attitude in analyzing and comparing urban and housing issues

Good

(B+, B) Satisfactory performance in applying the knowledge of variables, concepts and theories that influence the operation of the housing and urban policy; fair ability to identify key challenges; good research, writing and communication skills with some potential to develop critical, and independent analysis; fairly innovative and new ideas and critical attitude in analyzing and comparing urban and housing issues

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(B-, C+, C) Only basic and limited knowledge theories on the operation of urban and housing policy; Superficial analysis of the basic materials; Generally acceptable standard of research, writing and communication skills with some limitations; Very little innovative ideas and critical attitude in analyzing and comparing urban and housing issues

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(F) Very limited understanding of basic knowledge on housing and urban policy demonstrated; Occasionally irrelevant materials and theories presented with some inappropriate examples; Marginal standard of research, writing and communication skill with a number of limitations; very limited and almost no innovative ideas and critical attitude in analysing and comparing urban and housing problems and issues

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Comparative housing and urban systems in four fundamental welfare institutions such as liberal welfare state, conservative welfare state, social-democratic welfare state and developmental state; Comparative housing and urban systems in western industrial economies and East Asian economies; comparative urban systems in topics such as smart cities, community and citizenship; public housing policy; homeownership; housing for homeless such as slums and informal settlements.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	Esping-Andersen, G. (1990). The three worlds of welfare capitalism. Polity.
2	Weiss, Linda. 2000. "Developmental States in Transition: Adapting, Dismantling, Innovating, Not 'Normalizing.'" Pacific Review 13 (1): 21-55.
3	Wang, June, and Mingye Li. 2019. "Mobilising the Welfare Machine: Questioning the Resurgent Socialist Concern in China's Public Rental Housing Scheme." International Journal of Social Welfare 28 (3): 318-32.
4	Castells, Manuel, Lee Goh, and R. Yin-Wang Kwok. 1990. The Shek Kip Mei Syndrome: Economic Development and Public Housing in Hong Kong and Singapore. London: Pion.
5	Alan Smart. 2006. The Shek Kip Mei Myth: Squatters, Fires and Colonial Rule in Hong Kong, 1950-1963. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

6	Castells, M., Goh, L., Kwok, R. Y., & Kee, T. L. (1988). Economic development and housing policy in the Asian Pacific Rim: A comparative study of Hong Kong, Singapore, and Shenzhen special economic zone.
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Additional Readings

	Title
1	Clapham, D, Kemp, P & Smith, S J (1990) Housing and Social Policy (London: MacMillan).
2	Doling, J (1997) Comparative Housing Policy (London: Macmillan).
3	Sassen, S. (2011). Cities in a world economy. Sage Publications.
4	Short, J. R. (2014). Urban theory: A critical assessment. Palgrave Macmillan
5	Agus, Razali; Doling, John & Lee, Dong-Sung (Eds.) (2002) Housing Policy Systems in South and East Asia. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
6	Forrest, R. & Lee, J. (2003) (eds) Housing and Social Change: East West Perspectives. Routledge: London.
7	Wong, R (1998) On Privatizing Public Housing (Hong Kong: CityU Press).
8	Brenner, N., Marcuse, P., & Mayer, M. (2012). Cities for people, not for profit: critical urban theory and the right to the city (edition). Routledge.
9	Bridge, G. and Watson, S. (2010) The Blackwell city reader (edition) West Sussex, U.K; Malden, M: Wiley-Blackwell