

SS5305: POLICING STUDIES

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Policing Studies

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

5305

Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

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

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to provide students with a conceptual, operational, historical and contemporary understanding of policing, and to ensure that they are aware of and can critically examine those current issues arising from policing in modern societies, including Hong Kong, Mainland and some selected cities/ countries around the world.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 app.)		DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	To recognize the key concepts, development and issues of policing	30	x		
2	To apply the main theories and models of policing appropriately to crime control	30	x		
3	To articulate and explain the complex social and environmental factors of Hong Kong underlying the policing practices	20		x	
4	To demonstrate innovative ideas and give suggestions for better policing practice with reference to the local context.	20		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	Lectures	To deliberate the relevant concepts and theories.	1, 2, 3, 4	2
2	Group exercises and discussion	To offer their views and reflect on related topics based upon the exercises assigned by the course lecturer.	1, 2, 3, 4	0.5
3	Group presentation	Students are required to form groups of 6-7 persons to present assigned topics in which they will have a chance to analyze and apply the theories and concepts in the syllabus to the local context of different societies.	1, 2, 3, 4	0.5

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Participation and classroom exercises	1, 2, 3, 4	30	For initial idea generation, deepsearch functions, proofreading	Yes
2	Group presentation and project work	1, 2, 3, 4	30	-	No
3	In-class Test	1, 2, 3, 4	40	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Participation and classroom exercises (30%) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to describe and apply concepts, theories and approaches of policing appropriately with reference to the social context of different societies

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence for the ability to describe and apply concepts, theories and approaches of policing appropriately with reference to the social context of different societies

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good evidence for the ability to describe and apply concepts, theories and approaches of policing appropriately with reference to the social context of different societies

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair evidence for the ability to describe and apply concepts, theories and approaches of policing appropriately with reference to the social context of different societies

Marginal

(D) Limited evidence for the ability to describe and apply concepts, theories and approaches of policing appropriately with reference to the social context of different societies

Failure

(F) Insufficient evidence for the ability to describe and apply concepts, theories and approaches of policing appropriately with reference to the social context of different societies

Assessment Task

2. Group presentation and project work (30%) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Competence to articulate and analyze the complex social conditions in contemporary societies that affect policing practice and propose innovative ideas and creative suggestions for policing strategies in different societies

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence for the competence to articulate and analyze the complex social conditions in contemporary societies that affect policing practice and propose innovative ideas and creative suggestions for policing strategies in different societies

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good evidence for the competence to articulate and analyze the complex social conditions in contemporary societies that affect policing practice and propose innovative ideas and creative suggestions for policing strategies in different societies

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair evidence for the competence to articulate and analyze the complex social conditions in contemporary societies that affect policing practice and propose innovative ideas and creative suggestions for policing strategies in different societies

Marginal

(D) Limited evidence for the competence to articulate and analyze the complex social conditions in contemporary societies that affect policing practice and propose innovative ideas and creative suggestions for policing strategies in different societies

Failure

(F) Insufficient evidence for the competence to articulate and analyze the complex social conditions in contemporary societies that affect policing practice and propose innovative ideas and creative suggestions for policing strategies in different societies

Assessment Task

3. In-class Test (40%) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Capability to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the core concepts, theories and approaches of policing and provide innovative ideas for policing practice

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence for the capability to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the core concepts, theories and approaches of policing and provide innovative ideas for policing practice

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good evidence for the capability to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the core concepts, theories and approaches of policing and provide innovative ideas for policing practice

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair evidence for the capability to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the core concepts, theories and approaches of policing and provide innovative ideas for policing practice

Marginal

(D) Limited evidence for the capability to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the core concepts, theories and approaches of policing and provide innovative ideas for policing practice

Failure

(F) Insufficient evidence for the capability to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the core concepts, theories and approaches of policing and provide innovative ideas for policing practice

Assessment Task

1. Participation and classroom exercises (30%) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to describe and apply concepts, theories and approaches of policing appropriately with reference to the social context of different societies

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence for the ability to describe and apply concepts, theories and approaches of policing appropriately with reference to the social context of different societies

Good

(B+, B) Good evidence for the ability to describe and apply concepts, theories and approaches of policing appropriately with reference to the social context of different societies

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Fair to limited evidence for the ability to describe and apply concepts, theories and approaches of policing appropriately with reference to the social context of different societies

Failure

(F) Insufficient evidence for the ability to describe and apply concepts, theories and approaches of policing appropriately with reference to the social context of different societies

Assessment Task

2. Group presentation and project work (30%) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Competence to articulate and analyze the complex social conditions in contemporary societies that affect policing practice and propose innovative ideas and creative suggestions for policing strategies in different societies

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence for the competence to articulate and analyze the complex social conditions in contemporary societies that affect policing practice and propose innovative ideas and creative suggestions for policing strategies in different societies

Good

(B+, B) Good evidence for the competence to articulate and analyze the complex social conditions in contemporary societies that affect policing practice and propose innovative ideas and creative suggestions for policing strategies in different societies

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Fair to limited evidence for the competence to articulate and analyze the complex social conditions in contemporary societies that affect policing practice and propose innovative ideas and creative suggestions for policing strategies in different societies

Failure

(F) Insufficient evidence for the competence to articulate and analyze the complex social conditions in contemporary societies that affect policing practice and propose innovative ideas and creative suggestions for policing strategies in different societies

Assessment Task

3. In-class Test (40%) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Capability to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the core concepts, theories and approaches of policing and provide innovative ideas for policing practice

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence for the capability to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the core concepts, theories and approaches of policing and provide innovative ideas for policing practice

Good

(B+, B) Good evidence for the capability to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the core concepts, theories and approaches of policing and provide innovative ideas for policing practice

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Fair to limited evidence for the capability to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the core concepts, theories and approaches of policing and provide innovative ideas for policing practice

Failure

(F) Insufficient evidence for the capability to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the core concepts, theories and approaches of policing and provide innovative ideas for policing practice

Part III Other Information

Keyword SyllabusAn Introduction

Roles, functions and organizations of police in society

Policing the Communist China

Mass-line policing; Strike-hard policing; Community policing

Hong Kong Police Force

History of the Hong Kong Police Force; Crime Prevention; Crime Detection; Crime Investigation; Recruitment and Training

Community Policing

Definition of community policing; Recent development of community policing; community policing in practice; Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Problem-oriented Policing (POP)

SARA process; principles and practice of POP; Evaluations

Intelligence-led Policing and Hot-spot Policing

Evidence-based practice; targeted patrols; 'hot spots' patrols, crime clustering

Public Attitude towards the police

Public confidence in the police; satisfaction with the police; difference among subgroups; Procedural justice of the police

Police Deviancy

Corruption; Sexual harassment; Abuse of power

Policing and controversial issues

Policing domestic violence; Policing sex workers; Gender and policing; Job stress and coping

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Newburn, T. (ed.) (2008). Handbook of policing. Cullompton: Willan
2	Dunham, R.G. Alpert, G.P. and McLean, K. D. (2021). Critical issue in policing: contemporary readings (8th ed.). Waveland Press: Illinois.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Bayley, D.H. (1988). Community policing: a report from the devil' s advocate. In J.R. Green & S.D. Mastrofski (Eds.). Community policing: rhetoric or reality. New York: Paeger.
2	Bennett, T., Holloway, K., & Farrington, D.P. (2009). A review of the effectiveness of neighbourhood watch. Security Journal, 22(2),143-155.
3	Bullock, K., Erol, R., & Tilley, N. (2006). Problem-oriented policing and partnership. Cullompton: Willan.
4	Cao, L. (2015). Differentiating confidence in the police, trust in the police, and satisfaction with the police, Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies & Management, 38 (2), 239-249.
5	Kane. R. (2002). Social ecology of police misconduct. Criminology 40 867-896.
6	Lau, R.W.K. (2004). Community policing in Hong Kong: transplanting a questionable model. Criminal Justice, 4(1): 61-80. Retrieved July, 22, 2009 from http://www.hawaii.edu/hivandaids/Community_Policing_in_Hong_Kong_Transplanting_a_Questionable_Model.pdf
7	Li, J.C.M. (2010). An innovative community policing project in Hong Kong: operation breakthrough. In C. Roberson, D.K. Das & J.K. Singer (Eds.), Police without borders (pp.177-192). Boca Raton, Florida: CRC Press, Taylor and Francis Group.
8	Li, J.C.M. (2012). Violence against Chinese female sex workers in Hong Kong: from understanding to prevention. International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology 57(5):613-631.
9	Li, J.C.M. & Sun., I.Y. (2015). Satisfaction with the police: an empirical study of Chinese older citizens in Hong Kong. Policing: an International Journal of Police Strategies & Management. 38 (2), 381-399.
10	Maguire, M. (2008). Criminal investigation and crime control. In T. Newburn (ed.). Handbook of policing (pp.429-464). Cullompton: Willan.
11	Mawby,R.I. (2008). Models of policing. In T. Newburn (ed.). Handbook of policing (17-46). Cullompton: Willan.
12	Poteyeva M., & Sun, I. (2009). Gender differences in police officers' attitudes: Assessing current empirical evidence. Journal of Criminal Justice 37 512-522.
13	Peterson, M. (2005). Intelligence-led policing: The new intelligence architecture. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Assistance.
14	Rossmo D.K. (2009). Criminal investigative failure. Boca Raton: CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group.
15	Sanders, A., & Young R. (2008). Police power. In T. Newburn (ed.). Handbook of policing (pp.281-312). Cullompton: Willan.
16	Schmidt, J.D. ,& Sherman, L.W. (1993). Does Arrest Deter Domestic Violence. American Behavioral Scientist, 36(5), 601-609.
17	Sennewald C.A. (2003). Effective security management (4th ed.). Amsterdam: Butterworth-Heinemann.
18	Singh, A-M (2005). Private security and crime control. Theoretical criminology 9(2):153-174.
19	Skogan W. G. (2004). Community policing. Belmont: Thomson.
20	Sun, I., & Chu, D. (2010). Who is better suited for handling domestic violence: A comparison between Taiwanese female and male officers. Journal of Criminal Justice 38 453-459.
21	Sun, Ivan, & Wu, Yuning. (2010). Chinese policing in a time of transition, 1978-2008. Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice 26 20-35.
22	Sun, Ivan, Hu, Rong, Wong, Daniel F. K., He, Xuesong & Li, Jessica C.M. (2013). One country, three populations: Trust in police among migrants, villagers, and urbanites in China. Social Science Research 42 1737-1749.
23	Sun, Ivan, Wu, Yuning & Hu, Rong. (2013). Public assessments of the police in rural and urban China: A theoretical elaboration and empirical investigation. British Journal of Criminology 53 643-664.
24	Tilley, N. (2008). Modern approaches to policing: community, problem-oriented and intelligence-led. In T. Newburn (ed.). Handbook of policing (pp.373-403). Cullompton: Willan.
25	Westermarland L. (2008). Police culture. In T. Newburn (ed.). Handbook of policing (pp.253-280). Cullompton: Willan.

26	Wong, K.C. (2009). Chinese policing: history and reform. New York: Peter Lang.
27	Wong, K.C. (2012). Policing in Hong Kong. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, Taylor and Francis Group.