

# City University of Hong Kong

## Information on a Course offered by Department of Asian and International Studies with effect from Semester A in 2011/ 2012

---

---

### Part I

|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>Course Title:</b>  | Contemporary Political Sociology |
| <b>Course Code:</b>   | AIS2014                          |
| <b>Course Duration:</b>                                     | One semester                     |
| <b>Credit Units:</b>  | 3                                |
| <b>Level:</b>   | B2                               |
| <b>Medium of Instruction:</b>                               | English                          |
| <b>Prerequisites:</b> ( <i>Course Code and Title</i> )      | NIL                              |
| <b>Precursors:</b> ( <i>Course Code and Title</i> )         | NIL                              |
| <b>Equivalent Courses:</b> ( <i>Course Code and Title</i> ) | AIS4045 Political Sociology      |
| <b>Exclusive Courses:</b> ( <i>Course Code and Title</i> )  | NIL                              |

### Part II

#### 1. Course Aims:

*This course aims to* provide students with experience in analyzing social change and development in societies in East and Southeast Asia, and to learn theoretical models to begin to grasp and analyze these changes. The course aims to prepare students for more in-depth analysis and investigations which they will learn and practice in Year 2.

## 2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

*Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:*

| No. | CILOs   | Weighting (if applicable) |
|-----|---|---------------------------|
| 1.  | Deal with conceptualization of socio-political life in contemporary theories;   | 20%                       |
| 2.  | Examine the range of contemporary issues that define the field of political sociology;  | 30%                       |
| 3.  | Attempt to explain profound socio-political change with reference to contemporary East & Southeast Asia, including nation-building, development, democratization and globalization. | 30%                       |
| 4   | In oral exercises and papers, effectively present the learning outcome by using the literature and other reference materials of contemporary political sociology.                   | 20%                       |

## 3. Teaching and learning Activities (TLAs)

*(designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs)*

Indicative of likely activities and tasks students will undertake to learn in this course. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course.

| ILO No | TLAs  | Hours/week (if applicable) |
|--------|---|----------------------------|
| CILO 1 | Lectures (concepts and theories explained by the lecturer, questions and answers); tutorial presentation and discussions (students enhance their comprehension on concepts and theories by presentation of literature and discussions with classmates); Term paper writing (students apply concepts/theories in analyzing a selected issue).  |                            |
| CILO 2 | Lectures (using examples to show how issues can be examined); tutorial presentation and discussion (students use concepts/theories learned from literature and relevant materials to understand the selected issues, and improve their understanding by discussion with classmates); guest seminar and reflection log writing (activists in political arena will be invited to share their experiences with students, in order to stimulate students' reflection on the controversies of the selected issues); Term paper writing (students use a selected issue or comparison to practise analytical ability). |                            |
| CILO 3 | Lectures (using examples to show how the changes can be explained by theoretical perspectives); Term paper writing (students will analyse the changes of the selected issues according to the perspectives); tutorial presentation and discussion (students use the perspectives to understand the changes of the   |                            |

| <b>ILO No</b> | <b>TLAs</b>   | <b>Hours/week<br/>(if applicable)</b> |
|---------------|---|---------------------------------------|
|               | selected issues, and improve their understanding by discussion with classmates); guest seminar and reflection log writing (activists in political arena will be invited to share their experiences with students, in order to stimulate students' reflection on the changes of the selected issues by the perspectives).  |                                       |
| <b>CILO 4</b> | Lectures (demonstrating the skill of effective presentation); tutorial presentation and discussion (students practise the skill of effective presentation and communication); guest seminar and reflection log writing (students practise the skill of effective presentation and communication); term paper writing (students practise the skill of effective presentation). |                                       |

#### **4. Assessment Tasks/Activities**

*(designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs)*

Indicative of likely activities and tasks students will undertake to learn in this course. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course.

| <b>ILO</b>   | <b>Type of assessment tasks/activities</b>          |                               |                   |                                   | <b>Total</b> |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
|              | <b>Discussions in lecture, tutorial and seminar</b> | <b>Tutorial presentations</b> | <b>Term Paper</b> | <b>Reflection log on seminars</b> |              |
| 1            |   | 10%                           | 10%               | -                                 | 20%          |
| 2            | 5%  | 10%                           | 10%               | 5%                                | 30%          |
| 3            | 5%  | 10%                           | 10%               | 5%                                | 30%          |
| 4            | 5%  | 5%                            | 5%                | 5%                                | 20%          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>15%</b>  | <b>35%</b>                    | <b>35%</b>        | <b>15%</b>                        | <b>100%</b>  |

**5. Grading of Student Achievement:** Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>A-/A/A+</b> | Showing a high level of abstract or divergent thinking which has enabled the student to generalise to new concepts and contexts; applying or draw conclusion that are original by bringing phenomena under existing concepts or by being highly reflective; outstanding demonstration of ability to analyze issues covered in the courses by using those concepts and theories; excellent use of sources of information; effective use of format and structure in presentation of results and analysis; evidence of wide reading. |
| <b>B-/B/B+</b> | Good demonstrations of ability to analyze issues covered in the courses by using those concepts and theories; the important points are covered and good arguments are put up; good use of sources of information; and effective use of format and structure in presentation of results and analysis. The literature is covered and shows selectivity and judgement in what is important.  |
| <b>C-/C/C+</b> | Marginally adequate or flawed demonstration of ability to analyze issues covered in the courses by using those concepts and theories; show marginal understanding to some of the aspects of the material, but there is little transformation of sources and the work tends to be characterised more as an assimilation of material rather than its integration; overall, flaws and shortcomings are notable, and considerable improvement is desirable.   |
| <b>D</b>       | The student indicates that he/she understand a few basic aspects of the course, but the work includes a heavy reliance on retelling of source materials with minimal transformation. Many or major shortcomings are notable, and major improvements in performance are necessary for successful graduation.   |
| <b>F</b>       | Through poor learning or lack of effort, failure to demonstrate minimal level of ability in using concepts and theories, getting and presenting relevant information, and producing outputs which demonstrate minimal competence.   |

**Part III**

**Keyword Syllabus:**

Changing definitions of politics and power: Marxist tradition, Weberian tradition, discourse theory, cultural politics; globalization as post-modernization; displacement of the sovereign nation-state; the politicization of the social: resource mobilization theory and beyond, new social movement; citizenship and contesting rights: sex/gender, poverty, ethnicity; post-modernity and radical democracy.

**Recommended Reading:**

Allen, J. et al. 1992. *Political and economic forms of modernity*. Cambridge: Polity Press in association with the Open University.

Lane, J. 2006. *Globalization and politics: promises and dangers*. Oxon: Ashgate.

Lane, J. & Ersson, S. 2005. *Culture and politics: a comparative approach*. Oxon: Ashgate.

Nash, K. 2000. *Contemporary political sociology: globalization, politics, and power*. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell.

Nash, K. 2000. *Readings in contemporary political sociology*. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell.

Nash, K. & Scott, A. ed. 2004. *The Blackwell companion to political sociology*. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell.

Sherman, A. & Kolker, A. 1987. *The social bases of politics*. Belmont, Calif.: Wadsworth.

Online Resources:

Blackboard is used for the provision of readings (as pdf or html or Word files), for Discussions Forums, and to provide links to external web-based material.