City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

offered by Department of Public Policy
with effect from Semester A 2017/2018

Part I   Course Overview

Course Title: Understanding Politics and Policy

Course Code: POL2109

Course Duration: One Semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: B2

Proposed Area:
(for GE courses only)

☐ Arts and Humanities

☐ Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations

☐ Science and Technology

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) CLA1502 Discovering Government

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

(A 150-word description about the course)

This course aims to develop students' foundational knowledge in politics, policy, public management and the ethical dimension related to these areas. Students are required to critically examine basic concepts, issues, and, where appropriate, institutions in politics, ethics, policy and public management. The course uses classical and real-life cases to broaden students' perspective in their understanding of policy and governance. Through a range of interactive learning activities, which may include class discussions, debates, presentations, case studies, visits or events participation, students will be able to demonstrate the attitude and ability to accomplish discovery and innovation in politics, policy and public management. The course also develops students' skills in applying their knowledge to assess the future challenges in politics, policy and public management in Hong Kong, China/the region and the world.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs#	Weighting* (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	*A2*	*A3*
1.	Identify the basic concepts, issues, and, where appropriate, institutions in politics, ethics, policy and public management	30%	√	√	
2.	Apply foundational knowledge in politics, ethics, policy and public management to critically examine classical or real-life cases in these areas	30%	√	√	√
3.	Recognize some key challenges in politics, policy and public management in Hong Kong, China/the region and the world	30%	√	√	
4.	Demonstrate the attitude or ability to discover possible solutions to the challenges mentioned in CILO 3 above.	10%	√	√	√
	If weighting is assigned to CILOs, they should add up to 100%.	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)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.						Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4			
Lecture	Explain key concepts, issues, and, where appropriate, institutions related to politics, ethics, policy and public management	√		√				2hrs/wk for 7-8 weeks
Class/Group Discussion	Critically examine basic concepts and general issues related to politics, ethics, policy and public management in group or open class discussions	√	√	√				1 hr/wk for 7-8 weeks
Group Debate/Presentation	Students to form debating/presentation groups to apply their foundational knowledge in politics, ethics, policy and public management to critically examine some well-focussed controversial issues in these areas in class		√	√	√			3 hrs/wk for 4-5 weeks
Visit/Event Participation	A visit to relevant political organization or participation in a real-life event (such as election campaign) will be organized during semester time for on-site learning		√	√				3hrs/wk for 1 week
Individual Term Paper	Each student to write up an individual essay to critically analyse basic concepts and theories related to politics, ethics, policy or public management and to offer some suggested solutions to the key challenges facing in the selected area		√	√	√			
Final Test	A quiz, with short questions on basic concepts and theories and a more substantive and analytical question on a relevant case review will be conducted in Week 13 for all students	√	√	√	√			2 hrs

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.						Weighting*	Remarks
	1	2	3	4				
Continuous Assessment: 100%								
Class Discussion & Visit/Event Participation	√	√	√				15%	
Group Debate/Presentation		√	√	√			15%	
Individual Term Paper		√	√	√			35%	2,000 words
Final Test							35%	
Examination: _0___% (duration: , if applicable)								

* The weightings should add up to 100%.	100%	

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Individual Term Paper	Ability to critically explain and evaluate basic concepts and theories related to politics, ethics, policy or public management and to develop student's own ideas and analysis to deal with future challenges.	High standard of knowledge of the related concepts and theories with outstanding synthesis of readings. Strong ability to reflect critically on related concepts and theories with good application on how to cope with the key challenges concerned with innovative ideas. Excellent research and writing skills.	Significant knowledge of the related concepts and theory with good synthesis of readings. Good ability to reflect critically on the related concepts and theories with reasonable application on how to cope with the key challenges concerned with interesting ideas. Good research and writing skills.	Moderate knowledge of the related concepts and theories with reasonable synthesis of readings. Basic ability to reflect critically on the concepts and theories with basic application on how to cope with the key challenges concerned. Moderate research and writing skills.	Basic knowledge of the related concepts and theories with basic synthesis of readings. Weak ability to reflect critically on the concepts and theories with basic application on how to cope with the key challenges concerned. Basic research and writing skills.	Weak knowledge of the related concepts and theory with poor synthesis of readings. Very weak ability to reflect critically on the concepts and theories with poor application on how to cope with the key challenges concerned. Poor research and writing skills.
2. Final Test	Ability to identify and explain basic concepts and theories and critically evaluate a given case in politics, ethics, policy or public management and to	High standard of knowledge of basic concepts and theories and outstanding analysis of issues related to the given case. Strong	Good standard of knowledge of basic concepts and theories and good analysis of issues related to the given case. Good ability to apply	Average standard of knowledge of basic concepts and theories and reasonable analysis of issues related to the given case. Moderate ability to	Inadequate standard of knowledge of basic concepts and theories and below average analysis of issues related to the given case. Weak ability to apply these concepts	Poor standard of knowledge of basic concepts and theories and incompetent analysis of issues related to the given case. Very weak ability to apply these

	develop student's own ideas and analysis to deal with the challenges as revealed in the case.	ability to apply these concepts and issues to critically examine the key elements of the case and engage with scholarship on how to deal with the key challenges as revealed in the case.	these concepts and issues to critically examine the key elements of the case and engage with scholarship on how to deal with the key challenges as revealed in the case.	apply these concepts and issues to critically examine the key elements of the case and engage with scholarship on how to deal with the key challenges as revealed in the case.	and issues to critically examine the key elements of the case and engage with scholarship on how to deal with the key challenges as revealed in the case.	concepts and issues to critically examine the key elements of the case and engage with scholarship on how to deal with the key challenges as revealed in the case.
3. Group Debate/Presentation	Ability to engage in teamwork and to come up with a critical and defensible foundational analysis on some well-focussed controversial issues in politics, ethics, policy or public management and to anticipate and respond to possible counter arguments in a systematic and precise manner.	High standard of teamwork management and outstanding application of the related concepts and analysis to some well-focussed issues in politics, ethics, policy and public management and excellent anticipation and responses to counter arguments with clear and systematic presentation skills.	Good standard of teamwork management and convincing application of the related concepts and analysis to some well-focussed issues in politics, ethics, policy and public management and good anticipation and responses to counter arguments with clear and systematic presentation skills.	Average standard of teamwork management and acceptable application of the related concepts and analysis to some well-focussed issues in politics, ethics, policy and public management and reasonable anticipation and responses to counter arguments with acceptable presentation skills.	Basic standard of teamwork management and weak application of the related concepts and analysis to some well-focussed issues in politics, ethics, policy and public management and weak anticipation and responses to counter arguments with some presentation skills.	Poor standard of teamwork management and very weak application of the related concepts and analysis to some well-focussed issues in politics, ethics, policy and public management and little anticipation and response to counter arguments with poor presentation skills.

4. Class Discussion & Visit/Event Participation	Ability to contribute to critical discussion on issues deriving from lectures or visit/event participation both in class/on site or online and engage political actors or government officials during the visit/event participation in meaningful exchanges on politics, policy and public management.	Outstanding application of concepts and analysis in politics, ethics, policy and public management to issues deriving from lectures or visit/event participation and active participation in class/online discussion and visit/event for the course.	Good application of concepts and analysis in politics, ethics, policy and public management to issues deriving from lectures or visit/event participation and active participation in class/online discussion and visit/event for the course.	Reasonable application of concepts and analysis in politics, ethics, policy and public management to issues deriving from lectures or visit/event participation and reasonable participation in class/online discussion and visit/event for the course.	Weak application of concepts and analysis in politics, ethics, policy and public management to issues deriving from lectures or visit/event participation and some participation in class/online discussion and visit/event for the course.	Poor application of concepts and analysis in politics, ethics, policy and public management to issues deriving from lectures or visit/event participation and little participation in class/online discussion and visit/event for the course.

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

1. **Keyword Syllabus**
    (An indication of the key topics of the course.)

politics; good; right; justice; freedom; power; authority; political participation; political institutions; policy analysis; policy process and model; rationality; incrementalism; convoluted policymaking and implementation; the public service and its ethics; public administration; new public management; public-private partnership; new challenges in politics, policy and public management

2. **Reading List**
2.1 **Compulsory Readings**
    (Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

1.	Andrew Heywood, *Politics*, Parts1 & 5, Palgrave, various editions

2.2 **Additional Readings**
    (Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

1.	Andrew Heywood, *Politics*, Parts 2-4, Palgrave, various editions
2.	Michael J. Sandel, *Justice: What's the Right Things to Do?*, Penguin, 2010
3.	L. E. Lynn, Jr., *Public Management: Old and New*, Routledge, 2006
4.	Ian Scott, *The Public Sector in Hong Kong*, Hong Kong University Press, 2010
5.	Eliza W. Y. Lee, et. al., *Public Policymaking in Hong Kong*, Routledge, 2013