

# PIA3921: URBAN AND SOCIAL POLICY

---

## Effective Term

Semester A 2023/24

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Urban and Social Policy

### Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

### Course Number

3921

### 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

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

### Medium of Instruction

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

SA/POL/PIA2201 Public Policy and Social Development  
Part I of SA3201 Social Policy and Administration  
SA3921 Social Policy and Society  
POL3921 Social Policy and Society  
POL3205 Urban Policy  
POL3921 Urban and Social Policy

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course introduces the essential elements of urban and social policy. At the end of this course, students should:

- have a good understanding of modern processes of urban development and the nature of cities;
- have a good understanding of the processes that shape social welfare;
- understand how urban processes relate to social policy issues;
- have knowledge of the key elements of urban sociology such as access to urban opportunity, issues of social cohesion and social exclusion;
- appreciate the major urban and social policy issues facing Hong Kong;
- understand the politics of urban and social controversies that emerge in urban settings.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Students will be able to understand the nature of cities and the factors that determine their development in general, and in Hong Kong in particular.		x	x	
2	Students will be able to understand the processes that shape social welfare in general, and in Hong Kong in particular.		x	x	
3	Students will be able to critically assess the impacts of urban transformations for social welfare; the importance of social cohesion and neighbourhood; and the processes of social exclusion and social stratification.		x	x	
4	Students will be able to understand different models that underpin social welfare policies and urban policies.		x	x	
5	Students will be able to critically examine specific urban and social policy issues and provide ideas and perspectives on tackling possible urban and social problems.		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.

**Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)**

TLAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Students will: - acquire knowledge of the concepts, values and development in urban policy. - develop an awareness of the ways in which urban policy relates to social issues. - develop their analytical and critical capabilities to discuss urban policy issues and their social consequences.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
2	Self-study and reading	Students will: - acquire knowledge of the concepts, values and development in urban policy and its social consequences.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
3	Group Presentation and Paper	Students will: - work on a topic related to urban or social policy and discuss key issues involved and the social consequences. - give a presentation on the topic for which they will conduct research and analysis. - apply theoretical knowledge to analyse relevant case(s). - write a group paper to communicate their knowledge and understanding of the topic.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	

**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Participation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	10	To check the students' active participation
2	Group presentation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	20	To test students' ability to organise their arguments for examining urban and social policy issues; and to test their verbal presentation skills.

3	Group paper	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30	To test students' ability to organise their arguments for examining urban and social policy issues; and to test their written communication skills.
---	-------------	---------------	----	---

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

60

**Examination (%)**

40

**Examination Duration (Hours)**

2

**Additional Information for ATs**

Students are required to pass BOTH the coursework assessment AND the examination before they can be awarded an overall passing grade for the course.

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

Participation

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Actively engage with the lectures and participate in discussions and class activities.

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Regularly participate in discussions and class activities.

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Rarely participate in discussions and class activities.

**Marginal (D)**

No active participation and class activities.

**Failure (F)**

No participation in the classes

**Assessment Task**

Group presentation

**Criterion**

Ability to critically assess the literature on the urban or social policy topic and translate this to a well-structured and informative presentation, with a clear assessment and recommendations; and

Capacity to organize time, communicate effectively and cooperate with classmates.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

High

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Significant

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Not even reach marginal levels

---

**Assessment Task**

Group paper

**Criterion**

Ability to integrate information from a wide variety of sources to formulate a well-structured and informative group paper on the urban or social policy topic with a clear assessment and recommendations.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

High

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Significant

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Not even reach marginal levels

---

**Assessment Task**

Examination

**Criterion**

Ability to individually study, comprehend and reproduce core knowledge from basic urban and social policy literatures, as well as related in-class discussions.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

High

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Significant

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Not even reach marginal levels

## Part III Other Information

**Keyword Syllabus**

Role and nature of cities; global hierarchy of cities; determinants of social welfare and major social institutions; concepts of social needs, poverty, stigma, and social justice; social exclusion; segregation; the urban structure of Hong Kong and its determinants; social welfare in Hong Kong; urban and social policies; institutional development; neighbourhood change; urban social movements; major urban and social policy issues in Hong Kong.

**Reading List****Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Chan, Raymond K. H., and Chris K. C. Chan. 2013. "The shifting boundary between work and welfare - a review of active labour market policies in Hong Kong." <i>Journal of Asian Public Policy</i> 6 (1): 26-41.
2	Chow, N. (1998) 'The making of social policy in Hong Kong: Social welfare development in the 1980s and 1990s', in: R.W. Goodman and H.J. Kwon (Eds.) <i>The East Asian Welfare Model</i> , London: Routledge, pp.159-174.
3	Esping-Andersen, Gosta. 1990. <i>The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism</i> . Cambridge: Polity Press.
4	Fainstein, S. (2010) 'Conclusion: Towards the just city', in: <i>The Just City</i> , Ithaca & London: The Cornell University Press, pp. 165-184.
5	Fainstein, S. (2015) 'Just city', in: J.D. Wright (Ed) <i>International Encyclopedia of the Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences</i> , Vol.12, 2nd Edition, Amsterdam: Elsevier, pp.913-918.
6	Hall, T. & P. Hubbard (1996) 'The entrepreneurial city: New urban politics, new urban geographies?', <i>Progress in Human Geography</i> 20(2), pp.153-174.
7	Harvey, D. (1989) 'From managerialism to entrepreneurialism: The transformation in urban governance in late capitalism', <i>Geografiska Annaler, Series B Human Geography</i> , 71(1), pp.3-17.
8	Ho, D.K.L. (2000) 'Theories of social movements: A review of the literature', in: <i>Polite Politics: A Sociological Analysis of an Urban Protest in Hong Kong</i> , Aldershot etc.: Ashgate, pp.20-58.
9	Holliday, Ian. 2000. "Productivist Welfare Capitalism: Social Policy in East Asia." <i>Political Studies</i> 48 (4): 706-723.
10	Knox, P.L. (1991) 'The restless urban landscape: Economic and socio-cultural change and the transformation of Washington DC', <i>Annals of the Association of American Geographers</i> , 81, pp.181-209.
11	Stein, S. (2019) 'Introduction', in: <i>Capital City: Gentrification and the Real Estate State</i> , London etc.: Verso, pp.1-13.
12	Tang, Kwong-leung, and James Midgley. 2008. "The Origins and Features of Social Security." In <i>Social Security, the Economy and Development</i> , edited by James Midgley and Kwong-leung Tang, 17-50. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
13	Thorns, D. (2002) 'Industrial-modern cities', in: <i>The Transformation of Cities</i> , MacMillan, New York, pp.13-39.
14	Wong, Hung. 2015. "Is Poverty Eradication Impossible? A Critique on the Misconceptions of the Hong Kong Government." <i>China Review</i> 15 (2): 147-169.
15	Yip, Paul Siu Fai. 2021. <i>Poverty Prevalence, Trends and Transitions: Growth Imbalance and Sustainable Development</i> . Singapore: Springer, Chapter 1.
16	Yuk Tin Carl Cheng (2016). "Is the Public Assistance Programme Adequate in Hong Kong? From Value-Neutrality to Moral Engagement in the Politics of Policy Research" In Betty Yung and Kam-por Yu (eds.) <i>Ethical Dilemmas in Public Policy The Dynamics of Social Values in the East-West Context of Hong Kong</i> . Singapore: Springer, pp.129-146

17	Yung, Betty (2016). "Justice and Taxation: From GST to Hong Kong Tax System" In Betty Yung and Kam-por Yu (eds.) <i>Ethical Dilemmas in Public Policy The Dynamics of Social Values in the East-West Context of Hong Kong</i> . Singapore: Springer, pp.183-195
----	---

### Additional Readings

	Title
1	Alcock, P., Erskine, A. and May, M. (2012). <i>The Student's Companion to Social Policy</i> (4th ed.), Oxford: Blackwell.
2	Bridge, G., & Watson, S. (2002) <i>The Blackwell City Reader</i> Oxford: Blackwell.
3	Clark, D. (1996) <i>Urban World/Global City</i> , Routledge, London.
4	Fainstein, S. and Campbell, S. (1996) <i>Readings in Urban Theory</i> , Blackwell, Oxford.
5	Lee, E. W. Y. (2008). Social mobilization, blame avoidance and welfare restructuring in Hong Kong. In M. Sing (ed.) <i>Politics and Government in Hong Kong: Crisis under Chinese Sovereignty</i> . London: Routledge, pp. 162-175.
6	Lee, J.K.C. (2000). Balancing collectivization and individual responsibility: Hong Kong social policy under the Chinese regime. In K.L. Tang (ed.) <i>Social Development in Asia</i> , Boston: Kluwer Academic.
7	Midgley, J. (2014). Defining social development. In J. Midgley (ed.) <i>Social Development: Theory &amp; Practice</i> . London: SAGE.
8	Short, J (1996) <i>Urban Order: An introduction to cities, culture, and power</i> , Oxford: OUP.
9	Thorns, D. (2002) <i>The Transformation of Cities</i> , Palgrave Macmillan, New York.
10	Yung, Betty and Yu, Kam-por Yu (eds.) (2020) <i>Land and Housing Controversies in Hong Kong: Perspectives of Justice and Social Values</i> Singapore: Springer
11	Yung, Betty, Mok, Francis K. T., Wong, Baldwin (eds.) (2023) <i>Rights and Urban Controversies in Hong Kong: From the Eastern and Western Perspectives</i> Singapore: Springer