

SS3286: SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY

Effective Term

Semester B 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Social Welfare Policy

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

3286

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

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

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The course aims to enable students to

1. re-orientate their understanding of basic concepts in social policy;

2. acquire a basic understanding of theories of welfare and social analysis; and
 3. develop a critical and integrative approach to the analysis of current issues in social policy, with special reference to the Hong Kong context.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1 apply theories and concepts to analyse social policy and related issues that occur in the local context;	25	x	x	
2 identify core issues in social policy in Hong Kong and be able to suggest solutions to solve the problems;	25		x	x
3 evaluate existing social policy in a critical manner; and	25	x	x	
4 apply and explain critical perspectives on future development of social policy.	25		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.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1 Lecture	Students will learn welfare concepts and theories in the understanding of social issues and social policy. The lectures will be assisted by videos.	1, 2, 3, 4	
2 Case Analysis and Group Discussions	Students will develop critical thinking and analytical power by discussion and debate on policy issues in class.	1, 2, 3, 4	
3 Tutorial and group presentation	Students will study social issues in the local context through group presentation. They will gather policy information and make suggestions to tackle social problems.	1, 2, 3, 4	

4	Student consultation	Students will join group consultation to facilitate more teacher-student and student-student interaction and discussion, more in-depth learning and understanding of content.	1, 2, 3, 4	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Participation in class and tutorial discussion	1, 2, 3, 4	25	-	Yes
2	Student Presentation	1, 2, 3, 4	40	-	No
3	Term Paper	1, 2, 3, 4	35	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Term Paper

Criterion

- 1.1 Ability to relate relevant theories and concepts to understand policy issues
- 1.2 Ability to critically assess relevant issues on the core issues in social policy in Hong Kong
- 1.3 Ability to evaluate existing social policy in a critical manner and be able to suggest solution to solve the problems
- 1.4 Ability to develop critical perspectives on future development of social policy in Hong Kong

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

2. Student Presentation

Criterion

- 2.1 Capacity of understanding the concepts and knowledge they have learnt in class
- 2.2 Ability and competence in applying knowledge to the relevant social policy analysis
- 2.3 Ability to suggest solution to solve the problems, and relevant critique of the social policy issues

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

- 3. Participation in class and tutorial discussion

Criterion

- 3.1 Ability to be actively involved in the discussion, with relevant comments and concepts;
- 3.2 Ability to make relevant recommendations to improve the social policies in Hong Kong context

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Nature and scope of social policy, concepts in social policy analysis, welfare ideologies , poverty and social security, gender inequality and social policy, work and employment policy, housing and social inequality, citizenship and social exclusion, privatization, , globalization and social policy.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Alcock, C., Daly, G. & Griggs, E. (2008) <i>Introducing Social Policy</i> , 2nd edition, Harlow: Pearson/Longman.
2	Fitzpatrick, T. (2011) <i>Welfare Theory: an introduction to the theoretical debates in social policy</i> , 2nd edition, Basingstoke and New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
3	李健正、趙維生、梁麗清、陳錦華 (合編) (1999)。新社會政策。香港：中文大學出版社。

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Spicker, P. (2014). <i>Social Policy: Theory and practice</i> . Bristol: Policy Press.
2	Lee, J., Midgley, J., & Zhu, Y. (Eds.) (2014). <i>Social Policy and Change in East Asia</i> . Plymouth: Lexington.
3	Giddens, A. (1998). <i>The third way: The renewal of social democracy</i> . UK: Polity Press.
4	Glennister, H., Hills, J., Piachaud, D., & Webb, J. (2004). <i>One hundred years of poverty and policy</i> . U.K.: Joseph Rowntree Foundation.
5	Pierson, C., Castles, F. & Naumann, I. (Eds.) (2014). <i>The Welfare State Reader</i> , Cambridge: Policy Press.
6	Goodstadt, L. (2005). <i>Uneasy partners: The conflict between public interest and private profit in Hong Kong</i> . Hong Kong: The Hong Kong University Press.
7	Hall, A., & Midgley, J. (Eds.). (2004). <i>Social policy for development</i> . London: SAGE Publications Ltd.
8	Hill, M. (2003). <i>Understanding social policy</i> (7th ed.). Malden, Mass.: Blackwell.
9	Ho, P. Y. (2004). <i>The administrative history of the Hong Kong government agencies, 1841-2002</i> . Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
10	Lavalette, M. L., & Pratt, A. (Eds.). (2001). <i>Social policy: A conceptual and theoretical introduction</i> (2nd ed.). U.K.: Sage Publication.
11	Lewis, G., Gewirtz, S., & Clarke, J. (2001). <i>Rethinking social policy</i> . London: The Open University Press and Sage Publication.
12	Pascall, G. (1997). <i>Social policy: A new feminist analysis</i> . U.K.: Routledge.
13	Alcock, P., Erskine, A., & May, M. (Eds.). (2003). <i>The student's companion to social policy</i> (2nd ed.). U.K.: Blackwell, reprint.
14	Wilding, P., Hugue, A. S., & Tao, L. J. P. W. (Eds.). (1997). <i>Social policy in Hong Kong</i> . U.K.: Edward Elgar.
15	Williams, F. (1989). <i>Social policy: A critical introduction: Issues of race, gender and class</i> . U.K.: Polity Press.
16	Baldock, J., Vickerstaff, S., & Manning, N. (2003). <i>Social policy</i> (2nd ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
17	Leung, L. C., & Chan, K. W. (2015). Workfare vs. reconceptualising Work: Rethinking Social Security Reform for Lone Mothers in Hong Kong. <i>International Social Work</i> , 58(1): 111-122.
18	Leung, L. C., & Chan, K. W. (2012). A Family-friendly Policy for Hong Kong: Lessons from Three International Experiences. <i>International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy</i> , 32 (1/2):82-96.
19	陳錦華、王志鏗 (編) (2004)。香港社會政策評論。香港：中文大學出版社。
20	馮可立(2018)。貧而無怨難——香港民生福利發展史。香港：中華書局。