

PIA2104: HONG KONG GOVERNANCE

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Hong Kong Governance

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

2104

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

SA2104 Government & Public Administration in Hong Kong
POL2104 Government & Public Administration in Hong Kong
POL2104 Hong Kong Politics
PIA 2104 Hong Kong Politics

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course attempts to investigate the important aspects of government, politics and public administration in Hong Kong in the context of the changing socio-political environment. We explore the interaction among the institutions, agencies and actors involved in the operation of the Hong Kong government and relate them to the basic knowledge of politics and public administration. Specific emphasis will be made on the colonial rule and its long-term impact. It also investigates the main academic/ political analysis on selected topics, unravelling their basic assumptions and evaluating their arguments. The course requires students to apply basic political theories and concepts to these critical issues. Overall, the course aims at analyzing the constraints and possibilities for political development and effective governance in Hong Kong.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1 Identify and assess the essential dimensions of government, and politics in Hong Kong in the context of the changing socio-political environment.		x	x	x
2 Examine the salient features of the political and policy processes in Hong Kong and assess the policy dynamics and challenges confronting the HKSAR government;		x	x	x
3 Analyze the strengths and limitations of major scholarly arguments about the challenges confronting the governance in Hong Kong.		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.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1 Lectures	To introduce and explain concepts, debates and theories, and to enhance idea exchange between students through classroom activities and small-group discussions	1, 2, 3	

2	Reading of reference materials	To help students develop an in-depth understanding of key issues, events and theories	1, 2, 3	
3	Film screening; use of digital video clips	To illuminate specific topics and stimulate critical reflection	1, 2, 3	
4	Quizzes	To assess students' mastery of course contents and their ability to engage critically with theoretical and practical issues	1, 2, 3	
5	Group Project	To provide students with an opportunity to collaboratively study and explain a selected topic in Hong Kong politics through oral presentations and written report	1, 2, 3	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Quizzes	1, 2, 3	60	Midterm Quiz: 20% Final Quiz: 40%	No
2	Group Project	1, 2, 3	40	-	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Quizzes

Criterion

Understanding; Analysis; Writing Skills

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Comprehensive and critical understanding and analysis of the Hong Kong government's operations, political issues and events and relationships among political actors with excellent writing skills

Good (B+, B, B-)

Fairly good understanding and analysis of the Hong Kong government's operations, political issues and events and relationships among political actors with good writing skills

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Rudimentary understanding and analysis of the Hong Kong government's operations, political issues and events and relationships among political actors with basic writing skills

Marginal (D)

Poor understanding and analysis of the Hong Kong government's operations, political issues and events and relationships among political actors with weak writing skills

Failure (F)

Almost no understanding and analysis of the Hong Kong government's operations, political issues and events and relationships among political actors with inadequate writing skills

Assessment Task

Group Project

Criterion

Organisation; Content; Presentation Skills

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent organisation and insightful content on a selected topic in Hong Kong politics with excellent presentation skills

Good (B+, B, B-)

Clear organisation and fairly adequate content on a selected topic in Hong Kong politics with good presentation skills

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Fair organisation and adequate content on a selected topic in Hong Kong politics with weak presentation skills

Marginal (D)

Poor organisation and weak content on a selected topic in Hong Kong politics with very weak presentation skills

Failure (F)

Very poor organisation and inadequate content on a selected topic in Hong Kong politics with almost no presentation skills

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Government; Governance; Politics; Public Administration; Policy; Civil Service; Judiciary; Rule of Law; Political Culture; Political Reform; British Colonial Rule; One country Two systems

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Lam, Wai-man, Percy L.T. Lui and Wilson Wong (eds.). 2024. Contemporary Hong Kong Government and Politics (third edition). Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
2	Albert H. Y. Chen and P. J. Yap. The Constitutional System of the Hong Kong SAR: A Contextual Analysis, UK: Bloomsbury, 2023.
3	Ian Scott. The Public Sector in Hong Kong, 2nd ed, 2022.
4	Ma, Ngok. Political Development in Hong Kong: State, Political Society, and Civil Society. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2007.

5	Anthony B.L. Cheung. <i>Can Hong Kong Exceptionalism Last? Dilemmas of Governance and Public Administration over Five Decades, 1970s-2020</i> , Hong Kong: City University of Hong Kong Press, 2021. 1957. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
6	Carroll, John M. <i>A Concise History of Hong Kong</i> . Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2007.
7	Tai-lok Lui, Stephen W.K. Chiu and Ray Yep. <i>Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Hong Kong</i> , 2019.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	John P. Burns. <i>Government Capacity and the Hong Kong Civil Service</i> , Hong Kong: Oxford University Press, 2004.
2	Lau, Siu-kai (ed.). <i>The First Tung Chee-hwa Administration: The First Five Years of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region</i> . Hong Kong: Chinese University Press, 2002.
3	Cheung Peter T.Y. Civic Engagement in the Policy Process in Hong Kong: Change and Continuity. <i>Public Administration and Development</i> , 31, no. 2 (May 2011): 113-121.
4	Chan E. & Chan Joseph C.W. Hong Kong 2007-2017: a Backlash in Civil Society. <i>Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration</i> , 39, no. 2 (2017): 135-152.
5	Lam Jermain T.M. 2010. Party Institutionalization in Hong Kong. <i>Asian Perspective</i> 34 (2), pp. 53-82.
6	Lau S.K. and Kuan H.C. 2000. Partial Democratization, “Foundation Moment” and Political Parties in Hong Kong. <i>The China Quarterly</i> 163, pp. 705-720.
7	Lau S.K. and Kuan H.C. 2002. Hong Kong’s Stunted Political Party System. <i>The China Quarterly</i> 172, pp. 1010-1028.
8	Lee Eliza W.Y. 2012. Civil Society Organizations and Local Governance in Hong Kong. In Chiu Stephen W.K. and Wong S.L. (eds.). <i>Repositioning the Hong Kong Government: Social Foundations and Political Challenges</i> . Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, pp. 147-164.
9	Lam W.F. Coordinating the Government Bureaucracy in Hong Kong: An Institutional Analysis. <i>Governance</i> 18 (2005): 633-654.
10	Peters B. Guy. The challenge of policy coordination, <i>Policy Design and Practice</i> 1 (2018), pp.1-11.
11	Law, Wing Sang. <i>Collaborative Colonial Power: The Making of the Hong Kong Chinese</i> . Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2009.
12	Scott I. 2000. The Disarticulation of Hong Kong’s Post-handover Political System. <i>China Journal</i> 43, pp. 29-53.
13	Cheung C.Y. Stalemate in the Legislative Council of Hong Kong. in <i>Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Hong Kong</i> , in Lui T.L., et al. (eds.) London: Routledge, 2019, Chapter 4.
14	Burns J and Li, W. The Impact of External Change on Civil Service Values in Post-Colonial Hong Kong. <i>The China Quarterly</i> 222 (June 2015). Pp. 522-46.
15	Lee Eliza W.Y. and Yeung Rikkie L.K. The Principal Officials Accountability System: Its Underdevelopment as a System of Ministerial Government, <i>Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration</i> , 39 (2017): 120-134.
16	Lam W.M. An Alternative Understanding of Political Participation: Challenging the Myth of Political Indifference in Hong Kong. <i>International Journal of Public Administration</i> . Vol. 26, no.5 (2003): pp. 1-22. Pp. 473-496
17	Yep, Ray, and Tai-lok Lui. ‘Revisiting the Golden Era of MacLehose and the Dynamics of Social Reforms’ . <i>China Information</i> 24, no. 3 (2010): 249–72. https://doi.org/10.1177/0920203X10379360 .
18	Lau S.K. and Kuan H.C. 1995. “The Attentive Spectator: Political Participation of the Hong Kong Chinese” . <i>Journal of Northeast Asian Studies</i> 14 (1), pp. 3-24.