

PIA4953: HOUSING POLICY IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Housing Policy in Contemporary Society

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

4953

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/POL3231 Housing Policy and Society /SA4953 Housing Policy in Contemporary Society /POL4953 Housing Policy in Contemporary Society

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course examines the relationship between the housing system and social change. It seeks to assess the complex relationship between the public housing sector and the private housing sector, the growth of home ownership and its effect on wealth distribution, class formation, and policy formulation. The course also examines housing policies within the broad context of East Asia societies, China and the Western world. This course will be most useful for those who seeks to become a professional in housing management or those who wants to develop a career as a housing or public policy analyst. Particular attention would be drawn to the unique development of housing policy and the housing market as a closely-linked sector of the economy. The uniqueness of housing policy as a special brand of social policy will be thoroughly examined within the Hong Kong context.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Compare various theories of state intervention in housing		x	x	
2	Identify the processes of state intervention in housing and explain their impacts on the housing system		x	x	
3	Contrast the development and differentiation of housing tenure in contemporary society		x	x	x
4	Summarise the broad theories on the political economy of housing		x	x	
5	Recognise the significance of housing in the economy and social policy of modern society		x	x	
6	Synthesise knowledge acquired in other courses such as economics, law, social policy and urban planning to analyse contemporary housing issues		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	Provide an overview of the theories and perspectives as well as critical evaluation of the subject issues	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	

2	Group Research	Online group research in relation to theoretical issues covered in lectures	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
3	Group Presentation	To allow students to focus on one particular subject issue and learn to engage in critical review of the related theories as well as to apply such theories to local scenario	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
4	Group Paper	Preparation of a written paper to assess the ability to engage in in-depth and critical analysis of some selected subject issues	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
5	Examination	Test to assess students' grasp of CILOs	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Group Research Project Presentation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	20	Summative Assessment	No
2	Class participation and Discussion	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	10	Formative Assessment	Yes
3	Group Paper	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	30	Summative Assessment	No

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 in order to be awarded an overall passing grade.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Class participation and discussion

Criterion

Capacity to communicate, discuss issues effectively, 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 reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Group research project presentation

Criterion

Ability to consider in depth one particular aspect of the course and gather information independently from a wide variety of sources; Presentation skills

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

Group Paper

Criterion

Ability to engage with a theoretical issue, assess academic papers and other information related to the issue concerned and write a paper related to a housing related issue

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

Examination

Criterion

Demonstrate familiarity with and understanding of the CILOs and show ability to reflect upon appropriate range of issues regarding housing policy in contemporary society

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**

Definition, characteristics and activity of urban planning. Major planning models. Planning and the market. Hong Kong's main planning instruments. Major planning issues in Hong Kong such as: urban redevelopment; meeting land needs; density. Concepts and principles of sustainable development. Built environment and sustainable development. Housing and land issues in Hong Kong.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Lee, J (2008) Productivism, Developmentalism and the Shaping of Urban Order: Integrating Public Housing and Social Security in Singapore, <i>Urban Policy and Research</i> , 26 (3), p. 271-282
2	Davis, Mike. (2004). Planet of slums: Urban Involution and the Informal Proletariat. <i>New Left Review</i> , 26(1), 5-34.
3	Ronald, R., & Doling, J. (2010). Shifting East Asian Approaches to Home Ownership and the Housing Welfare Pillar. <i>International Journal of Housing Policy</i> , 10(3), 233-254.
4	UN Habitat (2011) The Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Housing Finance, Free download at: http://www.un-habitat.org Nairobi, United Nations Settlement Programme
5	Yung, Betty and Lee, Fung-ping (2012) “ ‘Right to Housing’ in Hong Kong: Perspectives from the Hong Kong Community” <i>Housing, Theory and Society</i> 29(4), 401-419
6	Yung, Betty and Chan, Alex (2020) “Third Sector Housing in 21st Century Hong Kong – Opportunities and Challenges” <i>Voluntary Sector Review</i> 11(3): 337-358

7	Yung, Betty (2008) Hong Kong's Housing Policy: A Case Study in Social Justice Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
---	--

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Keung, J. (1985) "Government intervention and housing policy in Hong Kong" , Third World Planning Review, 7(1): 23-44.
2	Lee, J., & Ngai-ming, Y. (2006). Public Housing and Family Life in East Asia: Housing History and Social Change in Hong Kong, 1953-1990. Journal of Family History, 31(1), 66-82.
3	Fung, Kwok Kin, & Forrest, Ray. (2011). Securitization, the Global Financial Crisis and Residential Capitalisms in an East Asian Context. Housing Studies, 26(7-8), 1231-1249.
4	Forrest, R. & Yip N. M. (2014) The Future for Reluctant Intervention: The Prospects for Hong Kong' s Public Rental Sector. Housing Studies 29(4), pp.551-565
5	La Grange, A and Pretorius, F (2000) Ontology, policy and the market: Trends to home ownership in Hong Kong, Urban Studies, 37 (9), pp.1561-1582
6	Smart, A. (2003). Impeded self-help: toleration and the proscription of housing consolidation in Hong Kong's squatter areas. Habitat International, 27(2), 205-225.
7	Smart, A. (1989) "Forgotten obstacles, neglected forces: explaining the origin of Hong Kong public housing" , Environment and Planning D, 7(2): 179-196.
8	Yip, N. M. & La Grange, A. (2006) Globalization, de-industrialization and Hong Kong' s private rental sector? Habitat International, 3(4), pp. 996-1006.
9	Yung, Betty and Yu, Kam-por Yu (eds.) (2020) Land and Housing Controversies in Hong Kong: Perspectives of Justice and Social Values Singapore: Springer
10	Yung, Betty, Mok, Francis K. T., Wong, Baldwin (eds.) (2023) Rights and Urban Controversies in Hong Kong: From the Eastern and Western Perspectives Singapore: Springer