

**REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (GOVERNMENT AND LAWS)  
[BSocSc(Govt&Laws)]**

*These regulations apply to students admitted to the BSocSc(Govt&Laws) 4-year '2012 curriculum' in the academic year 2018-19 and thereafter.*

*(See also General Regulations and Regulations for First Degree Curricula)*

---

### Definitions

**SSGL1<sup>1</sup>** In these Regulations, and in the Syllabuses for the degree of BSocSc(Govt&Laws), unless the context otherwise requires:

‘Core departments’ means the Departments of Geography, Politics and Public Administration, Psychology, Social Work and Social Administration, and Sociology.

‘Course’ means a course of study, with a credit value expressed as a number of credit-units as specified in the syllabus.

‘Credits’ means the value assigned to each course to indicate its study load relative to the total study load under a degree curriculum. The study load refers to the hours of student learning activities and experiences, both within and outside the classrooms, and includes contact hours and time spent on assessment tasks and examinations.

‘Pre-requisite’ means a course or a group of courses which candidates must have completed successfully or a requirement which candidates must have fulfilled before being permitted to take the course in question.

---

### Admission to the degree

**SSGL2** To be eligible for admission to the degree of Bachelor of Social Sciences (Government and Laws), candidates shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
  - (b) comply with the Regulations for First Degree Curricula; and
  - (c) complete the curriculum in accordance with the regulations that follow.
- 

### Period of study

**SSGL3** The curriculum shall normally require eight semesters of full-time study, extending over not fewer than four academic years, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester. Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of six academic years.

---

---

<sup>1</sup> This regulation should be read in conjunction with UG1 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

## Completion of the curriculum

### SSGL4

- (a) Candidates shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula<sup>2</sup>.
- (b) Candidates shall complete not fewer than 240 credits of courses, unless otherwise required or permitted under the Regulations.
- (c) Candidates shall complete the required number of compulsory and elective courses as prescribed in the syllabuses, including 96 credits of courses for PPA major, 72 credits of Law courses for Legal Studies major<sup>3</sup>, and 24 credits of free electives.
- (d) Candidates shall normally be required to take not fewer than 24 credits nor more than 30 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester) unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of Studies in Social Sciences (Government and Laws), or except in the final semester of study when the number of outstanding credits required to complete the curriculum requirements may be fewer than 24 credits.
- (e) Candidates may, of their own volition, take additional credits not exceeding 6 credits in each semester, and/or further credits during the summer semester, accumulating up to a maximum of 72 credits in one academic year. With the special permission of the Board of Studies, candidates may exceed the annual study load of 72 credits in a given academic year provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 288 credits for the normative period of study specified in SSGL3, save as provided for under SSGL4(f).
- (f) Where candidates are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of Studies may give permission for candidates to exceed the annual study load of 72 credits provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 432 credits for the maximum period of registration specified in SSGL3.
- (g) Candidates shall normally enrol in not more than 114 credits of introductory courses.
- (h) Candidates shall not enrol in any introductory courses in the final two years of study (except Common Core courses and CSSC9001 Practical Chinese for Social Sciences Students).

## Selection of courses

**SSGL5** Candidates who wish to change their selection of courses at the beginning of each semester may do so up to 2 weeks after the commencement of the semester. Requests for changes after the designated add/drop period of the semester shall not normally be considered, except for medical or other reasons accepted by the Board of Studies. Candidates' withdrawal from any course without permission will result in a fail grade.

## Assessment

**SSGL6** Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.

<sup>2</sup> Specific requirements are spelt out in the syllabuses.

<sup>3</sup> The major in legal studies by itself will not constitute any qualification eligible for admission to the PCLL.

Grades shall be awarded in accordance with UG8(a) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula. Candidates suspended under Statute XXXI shall not be allowed to take, present themselves for, and participate in any assessments during the period of suspension, unless otherwise permitted by the Senate.

**SSGL7** Candidates are required to make up for failed courses in the following manner as prescribed in the curriculum regulations:

- (a) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
- (b) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
- (c) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
- (d) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

**SSGL8** Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade or above for the purpose of upgrading.

**SSGL9** Candidates are permitted or required to present themselves for re-assessment/ re-examination / assessment in an alternative course under SSGL7 above. The new grade obtained together with the previous F grade shall be recorded on the transcript and be included in the calculation of the semester GPA, year GPA and the cumulative GPA and shall be taken into account for the purposes of determining eligibility for award of the BSocSc(Govt&Laws) degree, honours classification and whether a candidate is recommended for discontinuation of studies in the Faculty.

**SSGL10** There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

#### Discontinuation of studies

**SSGL11** Unless otherwise permitted by the Board of Studies, candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they have:

- (a) failed to complete 36 or more credits in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters; or
- (b) failed to achieve an average Semester GPA of 1.0 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester) ; or
- (c) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in SSGL3.

#### Absence from examination

**SSGL12** Candidates who are unable, because of illness, to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the first semester of the following academic year. Any such application shall normally be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination

shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provisions made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

---

#### Advanced standing

**SSGL13** Advanced standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully in an approved institution of higher education elsewhere in accordance with UG 2 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula. Credits granted for advanced standing will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate but will not be included in the calculation of the semester GPA, year GPA or cumulative GPA. Nor will they be taken into consideration for the honours classification of the BSocSc(Govt&Laws).

---

#### Credit transfer

**SSGL14** Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of Studies, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions at any time during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The number of credits to be transferred shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the degree curricula of the candidates during their candidature at the University, and a minimum of two semesters of study at this University shall be required before a candidate is considered for the award of BSocSc(Govt&Laws) degree.

---

#### Award of the degree

**SSGL15** To be eligible for award of the degree of BSocSc (Govt&Laws), candidates shall have:

- (a) successfully completed the curriculum as stipulated under Regulations SSGL4;
- (b) achieved a cumulative GPA of 1.00 or above;
- (c) satisfactorily completed a minimum of 240 credits; and
- (d) satisfied the requirements in UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

---

#### Honours classification

##### **SSGL16**

- (a) The degree of BSocSc(Govt&Laws) shall be awarded in five divisions: First Class Honours, Second Class Honours Division One, Second Class Honours Division Two, Third Class Honours, and Pass.
- (b) The classification of honours shall be determined by the Board of Examiners for the degree in accordance with the following Cumulative GPA scores, with all courses taken (including failed courses) carrying equal weighting:

<u>Class of honours</u>	<u>CGPA range</u>
First Class Honours	3.60 – 4.30
Second Class Honours	(2.40 – 3.59)

Division One	3.00 – 3.59
Division Two	2.40 – 2.99
Third Class Honours	1.70 – 2.39
Pass	1.00 – 1.69

- (c) Honours classification may not be determined solely on the basis of a candidate's Cumulative GPA and the Boards of Examiners for the degrees may, at its absolute discretion and with justification, award a higher class of honours to a candidate deemed to have demonstrated meritorious academic achievement but whose Cumulative GPA falls below the range stipulated in SSGL16(b) of the higher classification by not more than 0.1 Grade Point.
- (d) A list of candidates who have successfully completed all the requirements of the degrees shall be posted on Faculty notice boards.

## **SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (GOVERNMENT & LAWS)**

### **GENERAL FEATURES**

#### **I. OBJECTIVES**

This Bachelor of Social Sciences (Government and Laws) curriculum aims to

- provide students with basic knowledge and conceptual frameworks of political science and public administration, government operations, international relations and legal systems;
- develop students' ability in critical analysis of complex political and legal issues in the real world;
- equip students with necessary perspectives and skills in identifying and articulating feasible solutions to public issues and legal problems;
- enable students integrate theories and methods of political science and public administration as well as legal studies into interdisciplinary analytical exercises; and
- prepare students to engage in advocacy for social innovation and better governance, and embrace challenges in future careers in the fields of politics, public administration or law.

#### **II. CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

The regulations specify the requirements with which candidates have to comply for completion of the BSocSc(Govt&Laws) degree curriculum. Further details of the requirements are given in the syllabuses.

Candidates shall complete not fewer than 240 credits including 96 credits of courses for PPA major, 72 credits of courses for Legal Studies major<sup>4</sup> and 24 credits of free electives within the same or another curriculum. They shall enrol in not fewer than 24 and not more than 30 credits of courses for each semester other than the final semester as

<sup>4</sup> The major in legal studies by itself will not constitute any qualification eligible for admission to the PCLL.

specified in SSGL4.

## A. University Requirements (Regulation UG 5)

Candidates should complete all the courses listed below, which include the two language enhancement courses and the Common Core Courses as prescribed in Regulation UG5 “Requirements for Graduation” of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula. Candidates may enrol in additional courses and the maximum number of credits of introductory courses to be taken is 114.

### 1. Introductory courses

#### a) Language enhancement courses:

CAES1000 Core University English (6 credits)

[Students who have achieved Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, or equivalent, are exempted from this requirement, and Core University English is optional. Those who do not take this course should take an elective course in lieu, see Regulation UG6.]

CSSC9001 Practical Chinese for Social Sciences Students (6 credits)

OR

CUND9002 Practical Chinese and Hong Kong Society (6 credits)  
(for Putonghua-speaking students)

OR

CUND9003 Cantonese for non-Cantonese Speaking Students (6 credits)  
(for Putonghua-speaking students)

Candidates who have not studied the Chinese language during their secondary education or who have not attained the requisite level of competence in the Chinese language to take Chinese language enhancement course may apply for exemption and take a 6-credit Cantonese or Putonghua language courses offered by the School of Chinese, or take an elective course in lieu.

#### b) Common core courses:

Candidates are required to complete 36 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum, comprising at least one and not more than two courses from each Area of Inquiry with not more than 24 credits of courses being selected within one academic year except where candidates are required to make up for failed credits. (36 credits)

### 2. Advanced courses

#### Language enhancement courses:

English in the Discipline (6 credits)

[A pass in both LLAW1013 Legal research and writing I and LLAW2017 Legal research and writing II shall be deemed to satisfy

the “English in the Discipline” requirement under UG5(a) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.]

## **B. Major in Politics and Public Administration**

### **1. Introductory courses**

- a) The following from the Department of Politics and Public Administration:

POLI1003. Making sense of politics (6 credits)  
(This course must be completed in semester I or II)

- b) One course from the following core departments: (6 credits)

Faculty of Social Sciences  
Geography  
Psychology  
Social Work and Social Administration  
Sociology

### **2. Advanced courses**

- a) Courses offered by the Department of Politics and Public Administration

Candidates are required to complete not fewer than 72 credits of advanced courses. This includes the completion of the following compulsory courses:

- Methods requirement: POLI2104. Research methods in politics and public administration (preferably in semester III or IV). (6 credits)

- Gateway requirement: Two of the following courses: (12 credits)  
POLI2105. Introduction to comparative politics (6 credits)  
POLI2106. Introduction to international relations (6 credits)  
POLI2107. Introduction to political theory (6 credits)  
POLI2108. Introduction to public administration (6 credits)  
(students are strongly recommended to complete the relevant to gateway course if they wish concentrate in that specialist stream)

- Capstone requirement: One of the following courses from semesters VII to VIII: (6 credits)

POLI4092. Capstone experience: research internship in politics and public administration

POLI4109. Capstone experience: directed project in politics and public administration

Regarding 1.a) and 2.a) above, candidates should complete a minimum of 78 credits of courses.

Candidates may wish to concentrate in a specialist stream by completing 24 credits (out of the 72 credits) of advanced courses in a designated

stream. For the specialist streams please refer to the Department's website. Neither the transcript nor the certificate will note this specialization. Students, if necessary, may approach the Department for a letter of reference for their specialization.

b) Faculty of Social Sciences experiential learning courses

Candidates are required to complete 12 credits of off-campus learning under the theme of Social Innovation OR Global Citizenship as a condition of graduation. The requirement can be fulfilled by completing one of the following courses or 12 credits of exchange study or overseas summer programme approved by the Faculty.

FOSS2018. Social Innovation internship	(12 credits)
FOSS2019. Global Citizenship internship	(12 credits)
FOSS2021. Comparative East Asian Studies internship <b>and</b>	(6 credits)
FOSS4003. The political economy of global Asia	(6 credits)

**C. Major in Legal Studies<sup>5</sup>**

**1. Introductory courses**

Semester I or II:

LLAW1013. Legal research and writing I	(6 credits)
LLAW1009. Law and society	(6 credits)
LLAW1008. The legal system of the Hong Kong SAR	(6 credits)
LLAW1001. Law of contract I	(6 credits)
LLAW1002. Law of contract II	(6 credits)

Semester III or IV:

LLAW1005. Law of tort I	(6 credits)
LLAW1006. Law of tort II	(6 credits)
LLAW2017. Legal research and writing II	(6 credits)

**2. Advanced courses**

Semesters III and IV:

LLAW2001. Constitutional law	(6 credits)
LLAW3093. Administrative law	(6 credits)

Semesters V and VI:

LLAW3203. Guided research* (Capstone experience)	(6 credits)
--	-------------

Semesters VII and VIII:

LLAW3001. Introduction to legal theory	(6 credits)
--	-------------

\* or a Law Designated Research Course as approved by the Department of Law

---

<sup>5</sup> The major in legal studies by itself will not constitute any qualification eligible for admission to the PCLL.



**D. Free Electives**

(24 credits)

24 credits of advanced free elective courses offered within the same curriculum (both Law and PPA) or another curriculum offered by other faculties/departments/centers.

---

**III. COURSE REGISTRATION**

Course registration will take place before the commencement of each semester.

Candidates are advised to consult relevant teachers or Heads of Department on the suitable combinations of courses and to adhere closely to the normal study pattern. Less suitable combinations of courses may not be permitted because of timetabling difficulties. Courses listed in the syllabuses may not necessarily be offered every year; and depending on the exigencies of staffing, additional courses may be offered. Candidates may enrol in other courses offered under the BSocSc curriculum.

Candidates may change their course selection during the two-week add/drop period which is scheduled at the beginning of each semester. Withdrawal beyond the 2-week deadline will not be permitted, except for medical or other reasons acceptable to the Board of Studies. Candidates' withdrawing from any course without permission will result in a fail grade.

In course registration, candidates should pay special attention to the pre-requisite and co-requisite requirements of courses as specified in the syllabuses. A prerequisite is a course which candidates must complete successfully before being permitted to take a course in question. A co-requisite is a course which candidates must take at the same time as the course in question.

---

**IV. COURSEWORK AND EXAMINATION RATIO**

The final grading of each course will be determined by performance in the examination and an assessment of coursework in the ratios as specified.

---

**INTRODUCTORY COURSES****Language Enhancement Courses****CAES1000. Core University English (6 credits)**

The Core University English (CUE) course aims to enhance first-year students' academic English language proficiency in the university context. CUE focuses on developing students' academic English language skills for the Common Core Curriculum. These include the language skills needed to understand and produce spoken and written academic texts, express academic ideas and concepts clearly and in a well-structured manner and search for and use academic sources of information in their writing and speaking. Four online-learning modules through the Moodle platform on academic speaking, academic grammar, academic vocabulary,

citation and referencing skills and avoiding plagiarism will be offered to students to support their English learning. This course will help students to participate more effectively in their first-year university studies in English, thereby enriching their first-year experience.

Assessment: 65% coursework, 35% examination.

---

### **CSSC9001. Practical Chinese for Social Sciences Students (6 credits)**

Featuring problem-based learning (PBL) and collaborative learning approaches, this course aims to help students, through seminars and cases-based workshops, develop the ability to use the Chinese language effectively in the workplace. A key focus is on the use of Putonghua in presenting information for audiences. Essential techniques for producing office documents as well as reports will be discussed. Training in reading and writing the correct forms of traditional and simplified Chinese characters will also be provided.

Assessment: 70% coursework, 30% examination.

---

### **CUND9002. Practical Chinese and Hong Kong Society (6 credits)**

This course is specifically designed for the students from the Mainland. With *Putonghua* as the medium of instruction, it aims to underscore the characteristic styles and formats of practical Chinese writings in the workplace context in Hong Kong. Topics addressing the rhetorical strategies for reader-oriented professional writings are included to strengthen the students' command of the language. In the "Chinese Characters" component, drilling practices provide ample opportunity for the students to learn to convert simplified characters into their traditional forms. The evolution of Cantonese and the lexical and phonetic systems of this dialect will be explored. The local history and culture of Hong Kong will also be considered. On-site visits are organized to deepen the students' understanding of local traditions and, more importantly, to enhance their ability to appreciate and accept cultural and regional differences.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

### **CUND9003. Cantonese for non-Cantonese Speaking Students (6 credits)**

Through a comparative analysis of Putonghua and Cantonese, this course enables students to learn the characteristics of Hong Kong Chinese, to discover the differences in vocabulary and expression between the Cantonese dialect and Mandarin, to strengthen their communication skills in everyday life, and to have a proper understanding of the culture, traditions and people in Hong Kong.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

## **Faculty of Social Sciences**

---

### **SINO1003. Greater China: A multi-disciplinary introduction (6 credits)**

This course adopts multi-disciplinary perspectives to examine significant and complex issues of China in the past and present. With a general survey of China, this course discusses China's

historical development, revolutionary past, cultural traditions, formal political structure, the market-oriented economic reform, and geographic, demographic and linguistic diversity, as well as contemporary issues of environment, resistance and mass media. Central themes throughout the course include China's cultural identity, ethnicity, state-society relations, continuities and changes in China's socio-political values, and China's role in the global order. The purpose of this course is to provide students with a base of knowledge of China's historical and contemporary experiences and contexts. It aims to help students understand how China's historical legacy impacted on today's society, and how contemporary politics and economics transformed China in a comprehensive way.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

## **Geography**

---

### **GEOG1012. Economic and social development in an urbanizing world (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to the processes and spatial patterns of economic development and social changes in an increasingly urbanizing world. Important subjects to be discussed include the geographical dynamics of economic development, the trend of economic globalization versus local development, the location issue in various economic sectors, geopolitics and the new world order, as well as social and environmental concerns in the urbanization process. Emphasis will be placed on the geographical explanation of economic development and emerging urban issues in this fast changing world.

Assessment: 40% coursework, 60% examination.

---

### **GEOG1016. Nature conservation for sustainable societies (6 credits)**

The consumption of the Earth's resources has reached an alarming level in terms of the intensity and severity of deleterious impacts. This course surveys the major issues related to the tenure of human-nature interactions, their current status as well as the prognosis for the future. A synoptic view on the cultural roots of the exploitative utilization of our planet sets the backdrop for a systematic assessment of the different but interrelated components of the resource system. Various abiotic, biotic and abiotic-cum-biotic segments are discussed mainly at the global scale in the light of their diversified uses and misuses in different human societies, and the possibility for a more enlightened approach towards a more sustainable future. Adopting a non-technical approach, this course appeals to students with a background in humanities, social sciences or science disciplines.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **GEOG1017. Human geography in a globalizing world (6 credits)**

This is an introductory course about the processes and spatial patterns of human population, settlements, and culture in a globalizing world. Important subjects to be discussed will include the main themes of human geography as a spatial science, geography of population and migration, technological innovation and cultural diffusion, the changing cultural landscape, human impacts on the natural environment, and changing geography in major world regions.

Emphasis will be placed on the interaction between human society and the natural environment. Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

### **GEOG1002. Hong Kong: land, people and resources (6 credits)**

This course provides students with a fundamental understanding of several key physical and human geography issues in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Lectures are organized around two major sets of topics, which pertain to, respectively, the physical and human dimensions of the city's rapidly changing landscape. An emphasis is placed on the longer-term policy implications of these concerns in lecture deliberations. This is an independent course which can be taken by students from various disciplines. This course is relevant to students with a general interest in Hong Kong and its immediate hinterland. It is of particular relevance to Social Sciences students as it provides them with a comprehensive command of some salient local geographical problems from a larger regional and policy perspective.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

### **GEOG1003. Contemporary global environmental issues (6 credits)**

Recent decades have been characterized by increasing awareness of environmental issues and the need to come to terms with them. The course will examine, in turn, many of the current major environmental issues related to the atmosphere, the hydrosphere, the lithosphere and the biosphere as well as looking at major threats posed by the environment itself in the form of natural hazards. In addition, the issue of the nuclear threat and the ever-increasing demand for energy are explored. Finally, the matter of sustained development and intelligent management of the planet for this and future generations is addressed.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

### **GEOG1005. Map use, reading and interpretation (6 credits)**

Maps have been used for centuries to describe spatial patterns and portray association and correlation. Recent developments in digital spatial data handling have changed the environment where maps are used. Maps are no longer confined to the printed format. The objective of this course is to provide an integrated discussion of standard planimetric maps, their uses, and the basic skills necessary to take full advantage of these maps. The lectures will cover fundamental concepts underlying different mapping/analytical techniques, their strengths, limitations, and application settings. The practicals will be devoted to imparting essential computer operating skills to visualize spatial data. Coursework assessment comprises two in-class quizzes and five practical exercises. An examination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions will be administered during the examination period.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

---

## **Politics and Public Administration**

---

### **POLI1003. Making sense of politics (6 credits)**

It is an introductory course offered to students with no previous background in political science. It covers the basic concepts, institutions and processes that one would encounter in the study of politics. Emphasis will be placed on the application of concepts to current issues, including (but not restricted to) that of Hong Kong.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

## **Psychology**

---

### **PSYC1001. Introduction to psychology (6 credits)**

Discussion of basic concepts in psychology and a preliminary survey of representative work carried out in various areas of psychological investigation, together with an investigation at some length of one such area.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

## **Social Work and Social Administration**

---

### **SOWK1001. Introduction to social administration (6 credits)**

This is a basic course in the understanding of social policy in the areas of human resources planning and education, land use and housing, ageing and social security, family and support services, etc.

The two courses, SOWK1001 Introduction to social administration and SOWK1008 Social welfare system and social policy, are mutually exclusive. Students can only take either one of these two courses within their whole course of study.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **SOWK1002. Introduction to social work (6 credits)**

The course introduces the basic principles and concepts of social work. Students will obtain an understanding of the philosophy, knowledge and values which form the base for social work practice, social work as a profession, and the role of the social worker in modern society.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **SOWK1004. Human behaviour and the social environment (I) (6 credits)**

This course introduces a holistic approach to an exploration of normal patterns of development from infancy to old age. Social and familial conditions affecting growth at different stages in the life-cycle will be studied, together with related problems of adaptation and adjustment.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **SOWK1008. Social welfare system and social policy (6 credits)**

This course introduces the basic concepts and function of social welfare and social services, and the principles and methods of social policy and social planning. Analysis will be undertaken on a range of social services in Hong Kong such as housing, health, labour, education, social security and social welfare services including family, children and youth, community development, rehabilitation, elderly and other relevant services. Students taking the course will also acquire an understanding of the philosophy, mechanism and processes of policy making and planning, the methods of analyzing and evaluating social policy.

The two courses, SOWK1001 Introduction to social administration and SOWK1008 Social welfare system and social policy, are mutually exclusive. Students can only take either one of these two courses within their whole course of study.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

### **SOWK1011. Introduction to social entrepreneurship and social innovation (6 credits)**

This course reviews theories and concepts around change, leadership, social entrepreneurship and social innovation, creativity and sustainable intervention for bringing about desirable social change in society. Through case studies, interview of practitioners, interactive discussion as well as exposure to knowledge, resources and experience, the students are expected to develop critical appreciation of needs and social problems in relation to the economic and political context in society. Strategies and tactics adopted by social entrepreneurs such as of multi-disciplinary, multi-sectorial civic engagement and creative innovation with appropriate technologies are also critically examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **SOWK1012. Communication and counselling skills in everyday life (6 credits)**

*“No man is an island”* – John Donne. Human beings are social animals. It is our natural behavior to communicate with others. Good communication skills, however, are learned skills and not innate. Good counselling skills are advanced communication techniques. This course is an introduction to the basic communication and counselling skills required for establishing close and helping relationship with others. Students will be introduced to the concepts, skills and self-awareness needed for helpful interviewing and counseling and they can be applied in everyday life. Students are expected to have developed good listening skills, interviewing skills, and creative thinking and problem solving skills at the end of the course. Most importantly, this course aims to assist students to identify their personal areas of strengths and weaknesses in order to allow them to become effective listener and communicator.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

**SOWK1014. Introduction to social development (6 credits)**

This course introduces the foundation concepts and theoretical frameworks that inform social development practice and policy planning. Students will apply case studies from the developed and developing world to investigate diverse models of social intervention, entrepreneurship and innovation to gain understanding about strengths and weaknesses of existing models of social intervention and innovation.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**Sociology****SOCI1001. Introduction to sociology (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to the nature of sociological enquiry and the basic concepts used in sociological analysis. After some reference to the influence of inheritance and environment on human social behaviour, the course will focus on key concepts used in the analysis of cultures, social structures, social processes and social change. Topics include social class, education, media, culture and crime. The relationship between research, concepts and contemporary theory will be explored at an introductory level.

Assessment: 40% coursework, 60% examination.

---

**SOCI1003. Introduction to anthropology (6 credits)**

This course will explore, through cross-cultural comparison, key social and cultural issues, such as marriage and the family, caste and class, ethnicity and identity, language and culture, state formation, economic values, gender and religion. The course will draw on studies of the peoples and cultures of Asia.

Assessment: 100% coursework

---

**Law****LLAW1001. and LLAW1002. Law of contract I and II (12 credits) – subject to the Senate's approval**

The function of contract; formation of contract; including offer and acceptance, consideration and estoppel, certainty, intention to create legal relations and privity; contents of a contract, including express and implied terms, exemption clauses and statutory control; vitiating factors, including mistake, misrepresentation, duress, undue influence and unconscionability; discharge of contract, including performance, agreement, breach and frustration; remedies, including damages, specific performance, injunctions, action for an agreed sum, account of profits, liquidated damages, deposits, part-payments, rectification and rescission.

Assessment: 20% team work, 80% examination.

---

### **LLAW1005. and LLAW1006. Law of tort I and II (12 credits)**

This course introduces students to the tort law system and the general and particularized principles of tort liability. The course begins with a critical examination of the social and economic functions of the tort system. It then proceeds to an examination of the leading case law and principles in the main tort actions, beginning with a detailed analysis of the predominant tort, negligence. Important negligence-related concepts such as vicarious liability, joint and several liability, contribution and limitation of action are considered, as well as the principle remedy for negligence, that of damages for personal injury and death. Torts closely related to negligence such as occupiers' liability and breach of statutory duty are also studied, as are the tort-related no-fault accident compensation schemes for work-related injury and disease. The course then proceeds to a study of trespassory torts, those torts that cause injury or interference through intentional conduct, and the remedies available. Torts causing damage to or interference with property and their remedies are then considered, including trespass to land, nuisance and *Rylands v. Fletcher*. The course concludes with an examination of and the remedies for the torts that protection reputation, principally, defamation.

This course aims to provide a solid grounding in the functions and principles of tort law, the ability to think critically about tort law, and the ability to conduct independent legal research and provide meaningful legal analysis of tort law problems. Through carefully designed learning activities, the course aims to nurture in students the ability to identify tort law issues in the unflagged tort-related events of daily life, and to engage in the independent legal analysis of such unflagged tort-related events.

Assessment: 50% final examination. 20% coursework in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester, including a test accounting for either 10% or 20% and an assignment submission accounting for either 0% or 10% (detailed instructions will be provided on the course website), 30% reflective media diary: begin work immediately in 1<sup>st</sup> semester, submission in 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

### **LLAW1008. The legal system of the Hong Kong SAR (6 credits)**

A major legacy of British colonialism is the common law system; which has been transplanted in almost every British colony. Hong Kong is no exception. Hong Kong inherited the common law system from the British in the heydays of the British Empire, and more than 150 years later, this common law system is preserved upon the resumption of Chinese sovereignty over Hong Kong under the unprecedented experiment of 'One Country, Two Systems', which is enshrined in our Basic Law. Why is it so important to preserve the common law system? What are its central features? In what ways is it 'common' to the 'common law heritage'? How is it different from the legal system on the Mainland? How and to what extent do the two legal systems interact?

The aim of the Legal system course is to provide students with an understanding of the HKSAR's legal system, its common law foundations and its interface with the PRC legal system within the One-Country-Two-Systems framework outlined in Basic Law. We will be looking at the common law process and the role of personnel who help put the law into motion. We will examine the impact and performance of Hong Kong's legal system through the study of a range of current issues, for e.g., whether the One-Country-Two-Systems experiment has been successful or whether the common law system can indeed function with Chinese characteristics; whether the law is a panacea for all social problems or are there difficult questions which lie beyond the capacities of courts, etc.



A legal system does not exist in isolation. It can only be properly understood in its historical, social, economic and political context. It is therefore important to be able to understand the inter-relationship between different priorities that exist in any modern society. If you go through the newspapers, you will note the large number of controversial issues that constantly draw attention to the fundamental values underpinning our legal system. What do we, as a community, stand for? Does the law reflect those values or is it merely responsive to the circumstances as and when they arise? For instance, it is easy to advocate for equal access to justice, but who should pay for the system? Few would disagree with the primacy of human rights but how do we prioritise different rights when they are seemingly in conflict with other equally important values?

The course seeks to approach questions about the legal system from the broader perspective of the political and social implications of particular legal frameworks. This enables a critical understanding of why the legal system is the way it is, whether it achieves the objectives that society considers important and whether it serves to protect society's fundamental values. How does it protect these values in a continually changing social order? If a system is to gain the trust of its constituents, it needs to be sturdy and its principles should be strong enough to stand the test of time, yet it should not be so inflexible as to yield injustice. How can a system be designed so as to ensure that the needs and rights of all constituents are provided for, including minorities? How should the law and the legal system strike a balance between conflicting values? These are some of the types of questions we will be considering during the course. Assessment: 10% tutorial participation, 90% examination.

### **LLAW1009. Law and society (6 credits)**

The objective of this course is to introduce you to the historical, comparative and critical study of issues relating to "law and society". We hope to capture the dynamics between law and society, namely, how law is shaped by social changes, perception and thought, and how society is moulded by legal rules and norms. We will discuss broad interdisciplinary perspectives and theoretical, empirical and policy considerations relevant to the study of the relationship between law and society.

In this one semester course, we will consider some topical themes, such as the relationship between law and politics, law and philosophy, law and history, law and culture, law and morality, law and gender, law and family, etc., to illustrate these dynamics. We will be using multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary perspectives from anthropology, sociology, political science, history and philosophy. This is a course that is not primarily about law, but about how law-related socio-political and historical issues can be studied by employing these multi-disciplinary perspectives.

Assessment: 10% class participation in seminars, 90% examination.

### **LLAW1013. Legal research & writing I (6 credits) – subject to the Senate's approval**

Legal Research and Writing I is a foundational skills course offered in the first semester of the first year. It is a practice-focused skills course and emphasises maximum participation. The lectures and tutorials work in tandem to help students develop skills such as research, analysis, legal reasoning, and persuasive argument. The students will be introduced to judgements, ordinances, and specific legal genres such as case note and legal memorandum.

The course comprises the following three inter-related elements:

- a. Research: how to identify and locate appropriate cases and legislation, as well as secondary sources.
- b. Legal analysis: the students will learn to closely read and analyse common law judgement; to use and interpret legislation; and to identify legal issues from fact-patterns.
- c. Legal writing: the students will learn to write succinctly and effectively, and construct logical and persuasive arguments.

Assessment: 60% final take home exam, 30% written assignment, 10% class participation.

---

### **LLAW2017. Legal research and writing II (6 credits) – subject to the Senate’s approval**

Legal research and writing II (LRW2) is usually taken by students in the second semester of their second year of the LLB programme. It follows on the LRW1 course, the foundational course offered in the first semester of the first year. While the LRW1 course introduces students to basic legal research and writing skills, LRW2 builds on those skills and concentrates on the development of more lawyerly skills including drafting and oral presentation skills.

LRW2 is a skills-training course. It emphasises maximum participation. The lectures and tutorials work in tandem to help students develop skills such as oral presentation, legal drafting, conducting research, problem solving, legal reasoning and persuasive arguments.

The course comprises two inter-related elements:

- a. Drafting – focusing on essays and skeleton arguments that allow students to develop critical analysis, legal knowledge and legal reasoning.
- b. Oral presentation – focusing on oral presentation of cases, and an ability to engage in verbal legal argument and discourse. This also includes preparing PowerPoint slides and other supporting visual materials.

Assessment: 55% written work, 35% oral presentation, 10% class participation.

Pre-requisite: Legal research and writing I.

---

## **ADVANCED COURSES**

---

### **Faculty of Social Sciences**

---

#### **FOSS2018. Social Innovation internship (12 credits)**

To fulfill the graduation requirement under the theme of ‘Social Innovation’, students will begin their local or non-local internships after completing the intensive training workshops. They will be placed in local/international NGOs or other socially-focused public/private organizations during term time or the summer. They will be supervised and assessed by both an academic tutor and a workplace supervisor.

Social Innovation Internships seek to enhance students’ understanding of social issues through first-hand practical experience, and through applying knowledge and skills to real life situations. Students are expected to be socially aware and to have strong analytical, interpersonal and communication skills. On completion of the internship, students are required to give a project

presentation to reflect on their work-related experiences, and in particular to demonstrate how they integrate academic theories with their work-related experiences. To complete the internship, students must write an extensive report critically reflecting on theories learned in class and analysing empirical findings and work experience gained from the internship.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **FOSS2019. Global Citizenship internship (12 credits)**

In order to fulfill the graduation requirement under the theme of ‘Global Citizenship’, students are expected to develop strong analytical abilities in solving complex problems by undertaking non-local internships. For students taking non-local internships, they will begin their internships after completion of the intensive internship workshops. They will be placed in international NGOs or other socially-focused public/private organizations during term time or the summer. Through the participation in the non-local internships, students are expected to engage in working closely with international organizations, identifying key issues and developing strategies to enhance social development and promote social innovation. They are expected to conduct critical analysis of social issues, and to propose strategies to address the problems identified in their community organizations. They will be supervised and assessed by both an academic tutor and a workplace supervisor.

On completion of the internship, students are required to give a project presentation to reflect on their work-related experiences, and in particular to demonstrate how they integrate academic theories with their work-related experiences. To complete the internship, students must write an extensive report critically reflecting on theories learned in class and analysing empirical findings and work experience gained from the internship.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **FOSS2021. Comparative East Asian Studies internship (6 credits)**

In this full-time internship, students are expected to examine issues related to strategies for promoting social innovation in local communities, and for working effectively with practitioners and professionals from both the public and private sectors. This course seeks to enhance students’ understanding of social issues through first-hand practical experience, and through applying knowledge and skills to real-life situations. To complete the internship, students must write an essay critically reflecting on their internship and analyzing empirical findings and work experience gained from it.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **FOSS4003. The political economy of global Asia (6 credits)**

The Political Economy of Global Asia provides a platform for students to engage in the understanding of emerging Asia through participating in a two-week intensive study in Hong Kong followed by the Comparative East Asian Studies Internship (FOSS2021). This course aims at enhancing students’ understanding of Asia and its connectedness with other parts of the world, as well as at enriching their international learning experiences. Students will be exposed to key issues and developments in Hong Kong and China. In addition to the lectures delivered by leading academics, diplomats and business people, students will undertake a series of field trips designed to deepen their understanding of the lectures whilst exposing them to the richness of Hong Kong society.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

## Politics and Public Administration

---

### *Compulsory course*

#### **POLI2104. Research methods in politics and public administration (6 credits)**

Political scientists use a variety of methods to describe and explain political phenomena. Each method has its own purposes, assumptions, and limitations. This course covers the methods most commonly used in the study of politics and policies. Topics include the nature of scientific inquiry, measurement and causal inference; the conduct of case studies and field research; the design of surveys and experiments; the description and analysis of data; and research ethics. The course has a practical bent: its goal is to equip students with a working knowledge to put the methods to actual use.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### *Gateway courses*

#### **POLI2105. Introduction to comparative politics (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to a thematic approach in understanding politics in comparative settings. Drawing upon examples from liberal democracies, illiberal democracies and authoritarian states, the course examines the characteristics of the main political institutions and processes of the states, including political culture, political participation, the media, political parties, elections, the legislatures and executives. It compares how the various types of states govern, the types of political goods they can probably deliver and their drawbacks. Overall, it explores which way(s) is the best, and if democracy is universally applicable.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI0009 are not allowed to take this course.

---

#### **POLI2106. Introduction to international relations (6 credits)**

In this course students will be introduced to the central concepts in, and theoretical approaches to, the study of world politics both in historical and contemporary contexts. The first five classes will focus on the evolution of world politics as well as the concepts and predominant theoretical approaches used by students of international relations to understand and explain the field. The course then will explore specific issues in international relations. These include: the study of foreign policy and decision-making; international ethics; international economy; causes of conflict, war and peace; new security issues; and issues of global governance.

Throughout the course students will be challenged to think critically about world politics and hone specific academic skills. The course provides a foundation for further study in world politics.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

#### **POLI2107. Introduction to political theory (6 credits)**

This course addresses some fundamental questions in the field of political theory: Why do we need the state? How to justify it? Who should rule? What rights and liberties should citizens have? What are the obligations and responsibilities that citizens owe to one another? Through

addressing these questions this course provides students with a broad introduction to the major concepts and thinkers associated with western political theory – concepts such as authority, democracy, liberty, rights, justice and property, and thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau and Mill.

This is a “gateway” course, and it is recommended that students complete this course before enrolling in any other political theory classes.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

### **POLI2108. Introduction to public administration (6 credits)**

The purpose of this gateway course is to introduce students to the fundamental concepts and theories of public administration. Students will gain an overview of both issues and practices related to the public administration. The course focuses on the traditions, environment, politics, and core functions of public administration.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

#### *Capstone courses*

### **POLI4092. Capstone experience: research internship in politics and public administration (6 credits)**

Students will have the opportunity to perform basic research under the supervision of a faculty member. The internship includes meeting individually with the supervisor, reading relevant materials, assisting in an ongoing empirical research project, and writing an internship report.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **POLI4109. Capstone experience: directed project in politics and public administration (6 credits)**

Students will do an empirical research project on a specific topic under a teacher’s supervision. The project involves meeting with the supervisor, reading relevant theoretical and empirical articles, conducting empirical research projects, and writing a project report.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

#### *Elective courses*

### **POLI3001. Special topics in political science (6 credits)**

This course will focus on topics drawn from various areas of political science. Specific titles and course descriptions are available in the department website.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

### **POLI3002. Special topics in political theory (6 credits)**

This course will focus on some major topics in political theory. Specific titles and course descriptions are available in the department website.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

**POLI3004. Bureaucracy and the public (6 credits)**

This course examines the political, legal and social dimensions of interaction between bureaucracies and the public. Consideration will be given to the effectiveness of complaint-handling institutions, such as the ombudsman, Freedom of Information Acts, secrecy provisions and the roles played by street-level bureaucrats.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

**POLI3005. Capitalism and social justice (6 credits)**

This course discusses the morality of capitalism with reference to such issues as exploitation, social justice and equality. Topics include the philosophical defence of free-market capitalism, egalitarian theories of social justice, Marxist critique of capitalism, the concept of exploitation, and welfare rights.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**POLI3010. Democracy and its critics (6 credits)**

This course discusses basic and practical issues concerning the nature, justification, and limits of democracy. Topics include the concept and foundations of democracy, participatory democracy, the elitist challenge to democracy, Marxist critique of capitalist democracy, rational choice approaches to democracy, and others.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**POLI3012. East Asian political economy (6 credits)**

This course aims to examine the political processes that underlie the rapid economic transformation of East Asian countries. We will mainly cover Japan and the newly industrializing economies, namely Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and South Korea, but comparisons with China and other emerging economies such as Malaysia and Thailand will also be made. We will first introduce the salient features of the East Asian model of development and we will then analyze the pattern of political development, the relations between the state and other political actors, the development of administrative system, as well as the impact of international relations and strategic factors on the domestic political and economic processes of these cases.

Eligibility: Students who have taken FOSS0010 are not allowed to take this course.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

**POLI3015. Ethics and public affairs (6 credits)**

This course examines major public issues in contemporary societies from the perspectives of ethics and political theory. It aims to enhance students' abilities to critically analyze controversial ethical issues in public affairs. Topics include the nature and methods of moral arguments, major approaches in ethics and political theory, and selected studies of current public issues in the fields of global ethics, market ethics, and political and administrative ethics.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

**POLI3019. Hong Kong and the world (6 credits)**

Hong Kong's international character has been vital to its prosperity and vitality. While Hong Kong's 'foreign affairs portfolio' is controlled by China, Hong Kong retains considerable autonomy in shaping its international destiny. What global course should Hong Kong leaders chart? This class will examine the Special Administrative Region's unique international status, its complex identity as a Chinese world city and its track record in facing the challenges and opportunities associated with today's highly interdependent global system.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

**POLI3020. Hong Kong politics (6 credits)**

This course focuses on the legal, political and institutional structure of the Hong Kong government. The political culture and attitudes of the Hong Kong people are discussed. Other topics include the Chief Executive, legislative politics, constitutional politics, public opinion, pressure groups, political parties, mass media, and Beijing's policy toward Hong Kong.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**POLI3022. Contemporary Chinese politics (6 credits)**

This course is an introduction to contemporary Chinese politics. The main objective is to understand the ideology, institutions and processes of the contemporary Chinese political system and explore the socio-economic consequences, achievements, and problems of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

**POLI3023. Special topics in Chinese politics (6 credits)**

This course will focus on some major topics in Chinese politics. Specific titles and course descriptions are available in the department website.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

**POLI3024. Special topics in public administration (6 credits)**

This course offers an opportunity for students to examine current issues in public administration, particularly those facing the Hong Kong government.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

**POLI3025. Managerial skills in public organizations (6 credits)**

This course focuses on the activities and functions of managers in public organizations. Emphasis is put on the environment and context within which public managers operate, and the various managerial skills and tools that are essential to effective public managers. Students are expected to acquire skills to manage conflicts, lead, manage resources, communicate, and

make decisions in the context of public organizations. Reference is made to the experiences in various public or non-profit organizations in Hong Kong.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

### **POLI3027. Public policy-making: theories and application (6 credits)**

This course is designed to introduce students to major theoretical frameworks that have been devised to understand and explain public policy-making. The main questions asked are: why are certain policies made instead of others? What are the major factors that affect public policy-making? Empirical studies from both Hong Kong and elsewhere are included to illustrate the application of the theories.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

### **POLI3031. Politics of economic reform in China (6 credits)**

This course examines the politics of economic reform in contemporary China. After a brief historical review of the planning era, we study various aspects of China's economic transition after 1978, with a special focus on the economic and political tradeoffs behind each reform program. In the first half of the semester, we will cover areas such as the rural transformation, the enterprise reform, the reform of the fiscal system, trade and foreign direct investment policies, and the reform of the financial system. In the second half of the semester, we will discuss issues related to the current landscape of China's political economy, including income inequality, political governance, environmental protection and other challenges.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

### **POLI3034. Public administration in China (6 credits)**

This course aims to examine the context, structure, people and important issues in managing the public sector in contemporary China. The course provides students a basic understanding of China's public administration system and its reforms. Several very important topics will be covered, including the relationship between the Party and the government, government structure and intergovernmental relations, and how to manage public employees, and key issues in policy-making and implementation in contemporary China. This course encourages students to conduct group project, which will allow students to learn public policy analysis targeting real hot issues unfolding during China's reform era. Sample policy areas include food safety management, waste management and crisis management. The newly emerged modes of public service delivery in China will also be discussed.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

### **POLI3035. Public administration in Hong Kong (6 credits)**

This course covers interbranch and interdepartmental coordination, resource allocation and budgeting, elite co-optation and civic engagement, and civil service management and organization in Hong Kong Government. We will discuss new institutions and practices in the bureaucracy as well as traditions and legacies that continue to shape public administration today.

Assessment: 100% coursework.



**POLI3037. Managing people in public organizations (6 credits)**

This course seeks to improve students' capacities to analyze and interpret the context, institutions, processes and key issues in the management of people in public organizations with special reference to Hong Kong from the perspective of agency theory. There are two guest lectures offered by public managers. By the end of the course, students should be able to critically evaluate the control and accountability problems involved in managing the public sector work force and strategies to overcome them. Students should also be able to analyze and evaluate cases in public sector human resource management.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

**POLI3039. Public policy analysis (6 credits)**

This is an introductory course to public policy analysis with an emphasis on the production of advice for decision-makers. This course builds foundations of public policy analysis by covering related theories and concepts. Having answered why we need government intervention in solving public policy problems, this course also seeks to equip students with skills and techniques to analyze, design, and assess policy options.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**POLI3040. Public sector management (6 credits)**

Public administration is conducted through a variety of public organizations and institutional arrangements that collectively constitute the public sector. This course aims to provide students an understanding on the key issues of public sector management. It is structured into four parts: (1) the scope and structure of public sector, including the features and operation of various types of public organizations; (2) the human resource management issues within public organizations; (3) various modes of public service delivery; and (4) public sector reform strategies. Reference is made to the experience in Hong Kong.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

**POLI3044. American democracy (6 credits)**

American politics captivates domestic and international audiences. In order to construct informed opinions on the American political process, what should students outside of the United States know about institutions in the US government and the US political system? The purpose of this course is to provide students with an introduction to American politics, with a focus on the dynamic among various political institutions. Students will learn about the philosophical and constitutional basis of the American political system, the contours of American federalism, the interaction between the formal (executive, judiciary, and legislative) and informal (bureaucracy, media, and general electorate) branches of government in the US, and how elections reveal the internal dynamics of the American political system.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**POLI3047. United States foreign policy (6 credits)**

How does one make sense of the seeming "arrogance" of U.S. foreign policy? By enhancing student understanding of the causes and consequences of American international political choices, this course seeks to groom well-informed and objective critics of U.S. foreign policy. The course will examine the intellectual foundations associated with and the domestic political actors involved in U.S. international policy formulation and implementation. Students will then have the opportunity to apply this knowledge in a critical evaluation of some of the major international policy decisions made by the U.S. since WWII. The course will conclude with a discussion of the future of U.S. foreign policy, paying particular attention to the impact of the 9-11 attacks on the American world view.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

**POLI3051. Issues in Chinese political philosophy (6 credits)**

A comparative study of Chinese and Western political philosophy, with special emphasis on Confucianism and liberalism. Topics include the nature of classical Confucian political thought, the developments of the Confucian traditions in response to local political changes and to the challenges presented by western liberalism, the contemporary discourse on Confucianism and human rights, freedom, and democracy, and other related issues. Reference will be made to Chinese materials.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**POLI3052. International relations of East Asia (6 credits)**

This course helps students to have a better understanding of major trends and issues in international relations of East Asia. Instead of providing a comprehensive survey of the history, culture, and national policies of countries in the region, it mainly addresses four issues in the course: What are major trends in regional IR? What is the source of conflict in the region? What are the common interests that unite peoples and states of East Asia? How does the region organize itself? It explains dynamics and patterns of regional international relations in a broad geopolitical and geoeconomic context. Topics in discussion include major powers' role in the region, the Korean Peninsula, the Taiwan Strait, ASEAN, Southeastern Asia and regional institution-building.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

**POLI3059. China and the world (6 credits)**

China's place in the world has changed dramatically since the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949. How do we account for the transformation of the country's position from being a Soviet ally challenging the West, to an independent radical revolutionary state, and then a reform-minded country eager to join the international community? As communism collapsed elsewhere after the end of the Cold War, China is becoming an emerging global power practicing "socialism with Chinese characteristics". How do we understand and analyze China's relations with the rest of the world? This course examines China's interaction with the rest of the world since 1949, with reference on competing perspectives including power-

political, economic inter-dependence and historical-cultural analysis. The course concludes with a critical assessment of China's position in a globalizing world.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **POLI3060. Public financial management (6 credits)**

The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of financial management in the public sector from a theoretical and practical perspective. The focus is primarily on the conceptual, methodological and institutional aspects of public expenditure and revenue management. The subject is approached largely from an economic standpoint, but there is also some exposure to accounting principles. However, no previous knowledge of either economics or accounting is assumed.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

### **POLI3061. Hong Kong and South China: the political economy of regional development and cooperation (6 credits)**

The growing integration between Hong Kong and South China has profound implications not only for this region, but also for China and Asia as a whole. This course aims to analyze such an important development and its many implications. It is divided into three parts. Part I offers an overview of the development of the South China region. Theoretical approaches in the study of regionalism, intergovernmental relations and globalization and their relevance for understanding South China will also be examined. Part II analyzes the social, economic and political links between Hong Kong and Greater China and the development experience of South China since the late 1970s. Part III will focus on several key issues in regional development and cooperation in the South China region, including intergovernmental cooperation mechanisms, economic and technological development, demographic flows, boundary control, transportation and infra-structural development, as well as environmental management.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

### **POLI3064/LLAW3080. Governance and law (6 credits)**

This course seeks to understand why the state regulates certain activities and behaviour in society, what different forms of regulation exist, when and what kind of legal regulation is deemed necessary, how legal regulation is enforced, and checks balances against abuse in enforcement. This course is jointly taught by staff from the Department of Politics and Public Administration and the Department of Law. The main objective of the course is to explore the interface between the study of Politics and Law in understanding governance. Relevant case studies will be included for illustration and discussion.

Assessment: 50% examination, 30% research paper, 20% group project presentation.

---

### **POLI3065. Public organization and management (6 credits)**

This course examines theories of organization for understanding organizational phenomena and discusses potential strategies for enhancing organizational performance. The class draws

on studies and practices of organizations from different sectors as learning materials. Emphasis is placed on the application of theory to various organizational settings including public, private and nonprofit organizations. Through exposing students to various streams of organization literature, the course aims to develop students' ability to understand systematically and analyze critically organizational phenomena. By the end of the semester, students will be equipped with some basic tools for improving organizational performance.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **POLI3067. Liberalism and its limits (6 credits)**

This course explores a set of fundamental issues in liberalism. Liberalism, which is arguably the most influential tradition of political theory today, is about the proper scope of individual freedom and state power. Some of the issues to be discussed in this course are: What is freedom and what is its ground? Under what conditions should the state interfere with individual freedom? Should the state ban or discourage unethical or worthless ways of life? Should the state coerce people for their own good? Should we have the freedom to exclude people whom we don't like? What is so valuable about personal autonomy? The course aims to assess the strengths and limits of liberalism by examining the arguments for and against the liberal views on these issues.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

### **POLI3069. Public policy, politics and social change (6 credits)**

It is a common belief that public policies aim to control socially harmful behavior and to advance desirable, collective societal ends. Contrary to this belief, some policies have only served as tools to strengthen political and economic power of certain groups (or countries) at the expense of others. This course examines this dark side of public policies by addressing critical questions that include: whose interests are reflected in the policies? what are the institutional sources of policies/decisions? how does the powerful manipulate public opinion? who benefits and who pays for the costs of these policies in what ways? etc. By exploring answers to these questions, students are expected to identify sources of widespread injustice in contemporary societies. To conceptualize the core ideas, the course engages in the analysis of propaganda techniques, U.S. foreign policy, and the distribution of hazardous wastes, etc. The course will consist of a combination of lectures and group discussions. Active class participation is required.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

### **POLI3075/LLAW3142. Law and politics of constitutions (6 credits)**

Almost all modern states are constitutional states in the sense that they, in one form or the other, have a constitution. A constitution is not only a legal document; it is also a political instrument. For what purpose was the constitution made; for what functions could it serve; and on which it can be sustained are questions that cannot be answered without considering the interaction between law and politics in the making, implementation and development of the constitution.

This course applies an interdisciplinary approach and a comparative perspective to analyze intertwining issues of law and politics concerning constitutions like: constitutional interpretation theories, the roles of political parties, religion, judiciary and the public in the constitutional processes, and the significance of dialogue in constitutional deliberation.

Assessment: 50% open book examination, 30% research paper, 20% group project presentation.

**POLI3076. Special topics in international politics (6 credits)**

This course will focus on some major topics in international politics. Specific titles and course descriptions are available in the department website.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

**POLI3077. Special topics in comparative politics (6 credits)**

This course will focus on some major topics in comparative politics. Specific titles and course descriptions are available in the department website.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

**POLI3078. Humanity in globalization (6 credits)**

The study of globalization occurs at differing levels of analysis. System level studies, for example, may focus on the interactions between states and multinational corporations. Population level studies focus on the impact that globalizing forces inflict upon distinct populations, variously defined as either small groups, threatened cultures, or prospering nations. The intent of this course is to introduce students to the study of globalization at the population level, with an explicit focus on small groups defined by a variety of characteristics such as age, race, ethnicity, language, or religious affiliation. Topics of study will include current global issues such as human resources and migration; countering violent extremism; gender justice; humanitarian intervention and the responsibility to protect; sustainable development and patterns of consumption; and the economic and social impact of rapid technological change.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**POLI3079. Global justice (6 credits)**

This course provides an introduction into some of the main issues in the field of global justice, such as legitimacy and authority in international politics, self-determination, human rights, global distributive justice and the normative relations between the rich and the poor, the significance of borders, and immigration

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**POLI3080. Global political economy (6 credits)**

This course explores the political dimensions of global economic relations. The objectives of this course are to give students a better appreciation of major problems and dilemmas of contemporary global economy and to provide a conceptual framework for addressing policy problems in the global economy. We begin by examining several contending perspectives on global political economy. The course then examines distinct issue areas: globalization, development, trade, capital flows, financial crises, multinational production, environmental degradation, world hunger, and the transnational movement of people.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

### **POLI3086. Leadership skills in Public Administration (6 credits)**

The policy making and management structure of the HKSAR Government have undergone major developments in the past ten years. Significant changes are expected in the next ten years with the expansion of the Accountability System, the increasing influence of the media and various civic groups, and the need to make arrangements for the introduction of universal suffrage in the election of the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council in 2017 and possibly 2020 respectively. University graduates considering a career in the public service will benefit from a good understand of the formal and informal decision-making and management process within the government. The course will also provide students with practical management and public presentation skills when they start their career upon graduation. This course will explain the constitutional, policy making and management framework of the HKSAR government and associated major recent developments, the changing role of the civil service, particularly the Administrative Service, and the impending changes to public governance in the next ten years and beyond.

The primary focus of the course is to develop the students' management and public presentation skills through various exercises such as discussions, written assignments, projects and presentations on selected topics. Students attending this course are expected to participate actively in these exercises.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **POLI3088. Human security in the global context (6 credits)**

What is Human Security? How does the security and well-being of the individual relate to the security of the state? When we look around the world today, are our national security apparatuses providing us with the security that we need? Human Security refers to an emerging paradigm for understanding global politics whose proponents believe that the world requires a more comprehensive notion of security, one that marries the traditionally separate fields of development and defense studies and links the traditionally opposing principles of human rights and state sovereignty. Human Security proponents argue that today's security threats go beyond our traditional understanding of defense threats, (e.g. attack from another state) to include poverty, economic inequality, diseases, human rights abuses, environmental pollution, and natural disasters. This course will review the emergence of and major themes behind the Human Security paradigm and will ask if and how Human Security can be meaningfully applied in a policy context. The use of real-world case studies and simulation exercises throughout the course uses will help students understand and apply the material covered. Students are encouraged to make their own critical judgments about the value of the Human Security agenda towards the end of the course.

Eligibility: Students who have taken FOSS0003/FOSS0003A/FOSS0003B are not allowed to take this course.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

### **POLI3091. History of western political thought (6 credits)**

This course serves as an introduction and survey of the major currents of western political thought. The material surveyed in this course includes a chronology of major texts of political theory, starting with the early Greeks and ending with thinkers emblematic of the advent of modern liberalism. Students enrolled in this course will gain competencies in the study of politics as a unique human endeavor, with attention paid to major themes and debates in the

history of political thought. These themes include the nature of man as political animal, the role of the individual and the community as center of political decision-making, the shape of the office of authority, and the theory of the state. Having taken this course, students will be fluent in the description of individual thinkers and their relationship to one another, as well as the relationship of prominent thinkers' arguments to current political debates and political practices around the globe.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

### **POLI3093. Understanding social protest (6 credits)**

From Hong Kong's political demonstration on July 1<sup>st</sup> to the protest rally organized by your student union, social protest is undoubtedly an important form of politics. Outside of the formal and institutionalized channels, people do take politics onto the streets and use disruptive means to achieve political ends from time to time. This course seeks to provide students with grounding in the basic tools of understanding social protest and social movement. In addition to Hong Kong, cases will be drawn from many different countries—from the American civil rights movement to the 2007 democratic demonstrations in Burma, from Gandhi's *satyagraha* (non-violent resistance) to the more recent "color revolutions" in Europe and Central Asia etc. Students will also learn about influential social movement leaders past and present, such as Martin Luther King, Gandhi, Mandela, Mao, Lech Walesa, Aung San Suu Kyi and more.

Note: Students who have taken CCCH9009 Protests, rebellions and revolution are not allowed to take this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **POLI3094. Political participation: why and how? (6 credits)**

Why and how do people participate in politics? What are the channels through which people make their voices heard and interests represented? Why does political participation take different forms in different countries? Why is participation important for democracy to sustain and non-democracies to change? This course will examine the dynamics and patterns of political participation in both democratic *and* non-democratic societies. Topics will cover voting & election, political party, representative institution, public opinion, civic organization, mass media, lobbying, interest group and informal politics in democratic societies as well as the modes, scope and impact of political participation under non-democratic regimes.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

### **POLI3095. Civil society and governance (6 credits)**

The main objective of the course is to help students understand the concept of civil society, its historical circumstances and theoretical approaches, and the role of civil society in public governance. Topics include conceptions of civil society in the history of political thought and contemporary discourse; roles and impacts of civil society; trends of civil society development; theoretical approaches to civil society; social movements; legitimacy and accountability of civil society organizations; legal framework for civil society organizations, and the role of civil society in public governance.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

### **POLI3096. Citizenship, culture and community (6 credits)**

This module surveys major debates surrounding citizenship, culture and community in political thinking. It addresses important questions such as: Should citizens assume an active role in

political life? Is it ever justifiable for citizens to break the law? What is the value of culture and community? How does the experience of ‘multiculturalism’ challenge traditional conceptions of citizenship and community? Is nationalism a positive or negative ethos in political communities? Are political communities being transformed by globalization? Is there any such thing as ‘global citizenship’?

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

### **POLI3097. Modernity and globalization (6 credits)**

The concept of ‘modernity’ refers to a series of developments that transformed the world in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, such as the emergence of the modern state, democracy, capitalism and modern industry. The concept of ‘globalization’ refers to a series of similar dynamics in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, such as the emergence of global governance, new forms of global trade and industry, and apparent transformations in cultures and societies. This module surveys some of the most important debates about modernity and globalization in social and political thought, addressing important questions such as: What does it mean to be ‘modern’? Is modernity a distinctively ‘Western’ experience? What is ‘globalization’? Is globalization a transformation or continuation of modernity? Does globalization mark the ‘triumph’ of the ‘West’?

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **POLI3098. Nonprofit management (6 credits)**

This course is designed to advance students’ understanding of the management and operation of organizations in the nonprofit sector. In particular, it examines issues unique to the governance and administration of nonprofits, including board management, fundraising, philanthropy, nonprofit accounting and reporting, leadership, and network management. Students will learn both the theories and practical techniques required for an effective manager in nonprofit organizations.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

### **POLI3099. Perspectives and practice in world politics (6 credits)**

This is an intermediate level course in international relations. The objectives of this course are to encourage students to think critically about core scholarly readings in the field of international relations, and to provide a conceptual framework for addressing policy problems in world politics. We begin by examining several contending perspectives on international relations. The course then examines distinct issue areas: international economy, war, terrorism, environment, regional integration, globalization, and international institutions.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

### **POLI3103. Politics of the Global South (6 credits)**

The course will introduce students to the main debates and to some of the basic concepts and skills used in the analysis of the politics of the Global South. The course will combine theoretical perspectives with case studies, and will focus on a series of issues relevant to understanding political processes in the Global South. The course will explore the genealogy of the “Third World” concept and its mutation into the “Global South”, historical processes of decolonization, and some of the political challenges facing the postcolonial world. Furthermore, lectures will cover topics such as development and modernization, migration and mobility, human security and political violence, environmental degradation and processes of



urbanization, the emergence of global cities, and human rights and democratization.  
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

**POLI3110. Dilemmas of humanitarian intervention (6 credits)**

To examine dilemmas of humanitarian intervention, the course looks not only at states but also at INGOs and the aid business, and not only at aid but also at wider forms of political engagement. It focuses on (a) the emergence of humanitarian intervention, (b) its contemporary nature, (c) success and failure, (d) moral challenges, and (e) ways forward. It requires small groups of course participants to select one developing country for in-depth study, both to deepen their learning and to build a platform for comparative analysis in class.

Eligibility: Students who have taken CCGL9036 Dilemmas of humanitarian intervention are not allowed to take this course.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

**POLI3111. Social entrepreneurship and cross-sector collaboration (6 credits)**

Societies and the challenges they face have become ever more complex. Existing institutions and many public policies may no longer be capable of addressing the new generations of social problems. Social entrepreneurship involves the recognition of a social problem and application of entrepreneurial principles to organize, create, and manage a venture to effect social change. This course aims to provide students with an overview of the emerging field of social entrepreneurship that navigates across different societal sectors and aspires to apply innovative, entrepreneurial approaches to address many intractable social problems. The course seeks to stimulate students to think creatively of potential solutions and address the challenges of cross-sector collaboration in tackling public policy challenges.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

**POLI3112. Public policy and institutional design (6 credits)**

Public policy making, institutional design, and implementation are key issues in the study of public administration. In this course, students will gain an understanding of the policy making process from choosing the appropriate institutional structure to policy evaluation to managing different societal relations. With reference to some of the classics in the literature, various theories and concepts will be examined. To enhance students' understanding and making the theoretical ideas come to life, examples from Hong Kong and other comparative contexts will be discussed.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

**POLI3113. On the ethics of violence (6 credits)**

This course discusses issues like the ethics of self-defense, punishment, necessity justifications for violence, torture, war, revolution and terrorism. It will also show that the ethics of violence is fundamental for a proper understanding of certain basic problems and principles in political philosophy and in the organisation of human societies.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

**POLI3114. Understanding fair trade: a global movement (6 credits)**

In the age of globalization, “free trade” has become the world order and mantra for development, but the neoliberal promise has not always materialized for the poor countries. The fair trade movement developed in response, not only aiming to give producers a “fair” wage, but also build a direct and more equal relationship between producer and consumer. But how should the movement position itself when it is both “in and against” the market? What price does it have to pay to grow its influence? Can it master the game of corporate business without losing itself? Is the involvement of big multinational corporations a good thing? This course provides an overview of the fair trade movement and explores the challenges it faces, such as its promotion in the world’s freest economy—Hong Kong.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

**POLI3115. Politics and public opinion (6 credits)**

Public opinion is crucial for political actors to maintain their legitimacy, while opinion surveys have become an essential part of any modern liberal democratic society. Although Hong Kong is far from being a democratic society, its governance is heavily influenced by public opinion. This course examines the role of public opinion in the policy and electoral cycles of Hong Kong, with reference to different types of opinion surveys, including instant, tracking, panel, rolling, deliberative, and exit surveys. The process of opinion formation and the impact of opinion surveys at different stages of the policy and electoral cycles will be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**POLI3116. Theories and practice of social leadership (6 credits)**

The aim of this course is to give students a fundamental and practical understanding of social leadership. It is designed for students from a variety of backgrounds, cultures, and experiences in summer internships and extra-curricular activities. As society becomes increasingly diversified that calls for social innovation and requires high adaptability and contextual intelligence of social leaders, students need to be equipped with mindsets and skill-sets that cross over various sectors in public administration, business, society and the academia. The purpose of this course is to significantly increase students’ capacity to sustain the demands of leadership and to strengthen students’ ability to exercise both leadership and authority.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**POLI3117. Special topics in public policy (6 credits)**

This course will focus on some major topics in public policy. Specific titles and course descriptions are available in the department website.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

---

**POLI3118. Special topics in NGO studies (6 credits)**

This course will focus on some major topics in NGOs studies. Specific titles and course descriptions are available in the department website.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

**POLI3119. Causes of international war (6 credits)**

This course studies the causes of war. Competing theories of war are discussed; different methods of testing the theories are considered; and illustrative historical cases are examined, with a focus on East Asia. Also covered are the implications of nuclear weapons on international security, and the consequences of war on societies and individual human lives.

This is an advanced course that includes a major research investigation project.

Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3076 in 2013-14 or 2014-15 are not allowed to take this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**POLI3120. Governing Greater China: The challenge of intergovernmental relations and regional development (6 credits)**

This course aims to examine the changing relations between Mainland China and Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau, with a focus on the roles played by Hong Kong in China's development. This course is organized into three parts. Part I overviews major concepts and approaches in the study of intergovernmental relations and regional development, the historical development of central-local relations in contemporary China, and the changing links between Hong Kong and the Mainland in the pre-1997 and post-1997 periods. Part II examines several key topics, such as the role of Hong Kong in China's economic reform and development, cross-boundary cooperation between Hong Kong and south China, China's regional development and competition between Hong Kong and other cities, as well as the politics of identify and social integration between the two areas. Part III explores the prospect of intergovernmental relations and regional development in Greater China by examining the cases of Taiwan and Macau and their implications for Hong Kong's role in the development of this region.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**POLI3121. Environmental policy (6 credits)**

This course aims to provide introduction into the principles of environmental policy. It introduces fundamental theories and basic principles applied to environmental policy analysis. This course will help students to understand how economic incentives originate environmental problems and what roles government and public policy play. This course continues with discussions on various environmental policy issues, including international environmental issues and energy.

Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3117 in 2014-15 are not allowed to take this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**POLI3122. Strategic leadership in civil society organizations (6 credits)**

The course is designed to advance students' understanding of strategic leadership in civil society organisations. Strategic leadership involves interpreting the environment, crafting strategies, and building an organization that thrives in dynamic environments. A vibrant civil society calls for strategic leadership that goes beyond a single agency's interest, is driven by a collective vision and drives social change. In addition to learning theories of strategic leadership, students will practice strategic thinking and gain a deeper understanding of development of strategies in response to challenges arising from changing social needs,

growing demands for social services and collective action problems in service provision.

Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3024 in 2013-14 or 2014-15 are not allowed to take this course.

Assessment: 50% examination, 50% coursework.

---

### **POLI3123. Politics of the two Koreas (6 credits)**

This course examines political actors, processes, and issues in domestic politics and foreign relations of South and North Korea since 1945. It will begin with a brief overview of the shared historical origins of political institutions in the two Koreas, and move onto in-depth surveys about the divergent institutional, economic, and foreign relations paths that North and South Korea took after the Korean War. The third part of the course is devoted to the analysis about the contemporary inter-Korean relations, focusing on the causes and consequences of military tensions, nuclear crises, and various dialogues and cooperation initiatives since 1990. Lastly, it will discuss how the political and economic developments in the two Koreas affect and are influenced by the regional and international relations.

Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3076 in 2015-16 are not allowed to take this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **POLI3124. Justice and good life (6 credits)**

This course explores some of the basic issues in the debate between liberal neutrality and state perfectionism, which are at the core of liberal political theory. These issues include: What should be the relationship between the good life and social justice? Should a liberal state pursue social justice but not any kind of human good, such as knowledge and art? Can there be any objective knowledge about the good life? Is state promotion of the good life necessarily unfair to people who live in many different ways? In addition, if you care about injustice and poverty, how come you are so rich (or you want to be rich)? We shall also discuss some of the theories of prominent philosophers including Wilhelm von Humboldt, Karl Marx, J.S. Mill, John Rawls, and Joseph Raz. The course aims to enhance students' abilities to appreciate some of the main arguments in political theory and formulate their own views on a wide range of social and political issues. This is an advanced course in political theory. It is strongly recommended that students who want to take this course have already studied the gateway course "Introduction of political theory" and have a serious interest in political theory.

Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3002 in 2016-17 are not allowed to take this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **POLI3125. Political disagreement and philosophical issues (6 credits)**

How should we understand political disagreements? Not all of them, especially those among well-meaning citizens in civil society, are mere conflicts of interests. People in good faith disagree about how justice should be realised; how equality should be construed; and so on. There is an important and interesting philosophical issue: does moral disagreement imply moral subjectivism or moral relativism? Equally important is how we should respond to pervasive moral disagreement in politics. One common response to the problem is that citizens should be willing to understand each other. As such, intellectual virtues seem to be extremely important for political deliberation. Intellectual virtues are the personal qualities of a good thinker or

learner. They may include qualities such as open-mindedness, intellectual courage, and intellectual modesty. This course explores philosophical issues about the nature of moral disagreement and how intellectual virtues may have positive contributions to the formation of our moral beliefs and political views. This is an advanced course in political theory. It is strongly recommended that students who intend to take this course have already studied the gateway course “Introduction to political theory” and have a serious interest in political theory or political philosophy.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **POLI3126. Politics of contemporary Japan (6 credits)**

This course examines the politics of contemporary Japan. After a brief historical review, we survey the core political institutions of the postwar era, explore the interaction of political leaders, political parties, the bureaucracy and interest groups, with an emphasis on the ongoing transformation of the Japanese political system. We focus particularly on political changes since 1993, including the new electoral system and party realignment. Special attention is devoted to contemporary issues, such as foreign policy, economic policy, national security and administrative reform.

Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3001 in 2015-16 or 2016-17 are not allowed to take this course.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

### **POLI3127. The politics of the European Union (6 credits)**

The European Union (EU) is a unique experiment in transnational cooperation. It is neither a state nor an international organization, but it has characteristics of both. It aims to promote unity amongst its member states, while also accommodating their diversity. It struggles to maintain external borders, while striving to remove internal borders. The EU today faces a number of challenges – making its study timely and relevant for those who wish to understand the state of global politics.

This course traces the development of the EU from its postwar origins to its transformation into a major economic and political actor in the 21st century. We will study the EU’s political structures, its legal framework, its relationship with its member states, and its process of enlargement. We will also study some of the recent crises that threaten European unity, including the euro crisis and Brexit.

Eligibility: students who have taken POLI3076 in 2016 – 17 are not allowed to take this course.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

### **POLI3128. The political economy of international development (6 credits)**

This course provides an introduction to the political economy of international development. The main focus of this course is on understanding why different countries and regions have experienced such different development experiences and how today’s developing countries can learn from these experiences to meet the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This course will equip students with the conceptual frameworks required to critically

engage with a wide range of development issues, including: globalization, international trade, poverty and inequality, property rights regimes and financial liberalization.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

---

### **POLI3129. Foreign policy decision making (6 credits)**

How do countries make decisions? What explains the foreign policy of states in the international system? This course examines the major theories of foreign policy decisions making including, rational choice, bureaucratic politics, group think as well as psychological and environmental factors that influence decision making in foreign policy. The various theoretical approaches are applied to historical case studies to test the empirical validity of different theories. A decision making simulation game will be used to help apply and understand the various models.

Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3001 in 2017-18 are not allowed to take this course.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

### **POLI3130. Latin American politics (6 credits)**

This course is intended to act as an introduction and background to Latin America, with a view to understanding and interpreting the region's increasing significance in contemporary global political and economic relations. For example, China's growing interest in Latin America as a strategic and commercial partner.

Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3077 in 2014-15 or 2015-16 or 2016-17 or 2017-18 are not allowed to take this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **POLI3131. In search of good policy: an introduction to policy evaluation (6 credits)**

This course provides an introduction to quantitative methods for public policy evaluation. The main objective of this course is to familiarize students with a wide range of quantitative methods that are increasingly used to evaluate public policy and inform policy-making. Students will begin by reflecting on the interaction between statistics, policy analysis and decision-making. This will be followed by an introduction to the fundamental concepts underlying quantitative evaluation methods. The remainder of the course will focus on understanding the theory and application of public policy evaluation methodologies, including randomized experiments, instrumental variable analysis, matching methods and difference-in-differences. By the end of the course, students will be able to fully engage with published studies using quantitative evaluation methods and to be able to draw out appropriate policy implications.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

### **POLI3132. Terrorism and political violence (6 credits)**

While warfare between states has become quite infrequent, conflicts between governments and terrorist groups have increasingly developed into one of the predominant form of political violence. Indeed, long before the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, domestic (or transnational) terrorist groups have terrorized tens of millions of civilians and scores of

countries around the world. Since the turn of the century, terrorist attacks have also become increasingly lethal and destructive in various ways. This course takes an actor-centered approach to the study of terrorism and political violence. It will address, among other things, the goals and origins of terrorist groups, the strategies that these non-state actors and governments use to combat each other, the effects that such groups can have upon the unfortunate countries in which they operate (as well as on other countries unfortunate enough to suffer from any ‘spillovers’) and the various ways that these conflicts eventually end. As we explore these issues, we will also acquire in-depth historical knowledge of the history of terrorism in general and of a wide range of terrorist groups in particular.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

---

#### **POLI4046. Thesis in politics and public administration (12 credits)**

This is a two-semester project catered for highly motivated students that are interested in graduate studies and research careers. The course should be taken during the senior year under the supervision of a faculty member. The thesis should be at least 10,000 words long and individually written. It is expected to be a substantive piece of scholarship that demonstrates critical reflections and original research findings on a topic agreed by the supervisor. Students must have achieved a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5. They should submit a research proposal to their intended supervisor and secure the latter’s agreement to supervise their thesis before enrolling in the course.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

#### **POLI4110. Advanced seminar I (6 credits)**

This is a discussion-based course for senior year students with strong academic interest in specialized and in-depth study of one or more topics in a small class setting. The topical focus of the seminar will depend on the area specialty of the instructor. Students are expected to read intensively and contribute fruitfully to seminar discussions.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

#### **POLI4111. Advanced seminar II (6 credits)**

This is a discussion-based course for senior year students with strong academic interest in specialized and in-depth study of one or more topics in a small class setting. The topical focus of the seminar will depend on the area specialty of the instructor. Students are expected to read intensively and contribute fruitfully to seminar discussions.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

#### **POLI4112. Advanced seminar III (6 credits)**

This is a discussion-based course for senior year students with strong academic interest in specialized and in-depth study of one or more topics in a small class setting. The topical focus of the seminar will depend on the area specialty of the instructor. Students are expected to read intensively and contribute fruitfully to seminar discussions.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

**POLI4113. Advanced seminar IV (6 credits)**

This is a discussion-based course for senior year students with strong academic interest in specialized and in-depth study of one or more topics in a small class setting. The topical focus of the seminar will depend on the area specialty of the instructor. Students are expected to read intensively and contribute fruitfully to seminar discussions.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

---

**ECON2276. State , law and the economy (6 credits)**

Please refer to the Faculty of Business and Economics website for course description.

---

**EUST3010. European political and economic institutions and processes (6 credits)**

Please refer to the European Studies Programme website for course description.

---



## Law

---

### Compulsory Courses

#### **LLAW2001. Constitutional law (6 credits)**

Constitutional law is a core component of a legal system. It also constitutes the foundation of a legal system, because it stipulates what are the sources of law in the legal system and how the law is made; it establishes, empowers and constrains the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government; and it regulates the relationship between these organs of government as well as the relationship between the government and the people. From the perspective of the people, constitutional law guarantees and protects their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In Hong Kong, constitutional law also performs the important function of regulating the relationship between Hong Kong as a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Central Government Authorities of the PRC. Constitutional law in Hong Kong is therefore the legal foundation of 'One Country, Two Systems'. It is also an area of the law which is often the focus of public and media attention. Constitutional law cases and controversies often appear in the Hong Kong press as frontpage news stories. The outcomes of constitutional litigation sometimes not only change the lives of the parties to the case, but also have wide and deep impact on the Hong Kong community and its public and social policies, or the political relationship between Hong Kong and mainland China.

Constitutional law is closely related to politics, political philosophy and history. In students' previous legal studies, they have already come across aspects of constitutional history and constitutional theory (e.g. in the Law and Society course), as well as some constitutional controversies in Hong Kong (e.g. in the Legal System course). We hope that this course on constitutional law will provide for students the opportunity to study the subject more systematically and intensively. However, as it is only a one-semester course, it can do no more than opening the door for students, so that students who are interested in a broader and deeper understanding of the subject may acquire a solid foundation for their future studies in this interesting, exciting and challenging domain of public law.

Assessment: 70% examination, 30% research paper.

---

#### **LLAW3001. Introduction to legal theory (6 credits) – subject to the Senate's approval**

This course encourages critical reflections on the nature of law, the central issues of jurisprudence and the concepts and techniques used in the operation of legal systems. Topics to be covered may include some of the following: assessing the relationship between law, politics and morality; natural law; legal positivism; theories of justice; adjudication and legal reasoning; legal realism; feminist jurisprudence; sociological jurisprudence.

Assessment: 25% in-class group presentation, 75% examination.

---

#### **LLAW3093. Administrative law (6 credits)**

The course will introduce Hong Kong's law on judicial review of administrative action. Topics

that may be covered in any particular year include: theories of administrative decision-making, grounds of judicial review (errors of law and fact, procedural impropriety, errors in the exercise of discretion, legitimate expectations), the public-private divide, the practical aspects of bringing an action for judicial review, and non-curial means of control and scrutiny of administration action (Ombudsman, Administrative appeals, public enquiries). The course will guide students on how to apply the law in factual scenarios and encourage students to reflect upon various theoretical issues in Administrative law.

Pre-requisite: Subject to special approval by the course coordinator, students taking this course must have completed LLAW 2001 Constitutional law (or its equivalent).

Assessment: 30% research paper, 70% examination.

### **LLAW3203. Guided research (6 credits)** – subject to the Senate’s approval

This course is about legal scholarship. Students will acquire the skills of effective legal writing and research (including the choosing of research topic; different research methodology/techniques; framing of and responding to critical legal argument; problem of plagiarism) through producing a research paper under the supervision of a faculty member and participating in a series of workshop meeting sessions. Learning activities during the meeting sessions will primarily consist of presenting one’s research topic/idea, engaging in others’ research topic/idea, and collective discussions about the characteristics of good legal scholarship. Given the unique manner in which this course is conducted as compared to other law courses, students should pay particular attention to the following administrative matters when selecting the course.

First, students are responsible for finding a faculty member who is willing to supervise the students on their research projects. Different faculty members have different considerations and requirements on the decision to supervise a student, but it is typically expected that the student when approaching the faculty member should have a reasonably viable research topic/proposal that falls into the research/teaching interest of the proposed supervisor. Students are strongly encouraged to secure the consent of their desired supervisor prior to the end of the add/drop period. Failure to do so run the risk of not being able to find a supervisor and/or complete the required paper within the time constraint of a semester – and the consequential failure of the course. On the flip side, students may, if approved by their respective supervisors, begin their supervised research and writing prior to the formal registration of the course (e.g., in the presiding summer vacation prior to registration in Semester 1, or in Semester 1 prior to registration in Semester 2).

Second, as reflected in the 10% class participation mark, the workshop meeting sessions are integral to the educational objectives of this course. Failure to regularly attend and participate in the meeting sessions will result in averse deduction in the 10% class participation mark, including a zero score. Conflicting schedule with other classes/tutorials, overseas exchange, internship etc. are not acceptable reasons for absence, so please plan accordingly when making your course selection.

Third, the expected word count of the research paper is between 6000 to 8000 words, though the supervisor may stipulate otherwise. To qualify for a Designated Research Course credit, the word count of the paper cannot be less than 5000 words.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 90% research paper.