

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Public and International Affairs
with effect from Semester A 2024/25**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Theories of Government and Public Administration

Course Code: PIA5101

Course Duration: one semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) POL5101 Theories of Government and Public Administration

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims to

- examine critically major theories about the state, the role of government and the nature of public administration, public management and governance;
- discover the theoretical and practical issues underpinning current trends whereby public administration is being reformulated in terms of public management and/or ‘good governance’;
- evaluate the similarities and differences in the roles and management of, and interactions between, the public and private sectors;
- apply the theories of government, governance and public administration / management to the empirical world.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Examine and discuss critically the rationales for, the significant similarities and the differences between key paradigms of government and public service delivery including those of ‘public administration’, ‘new public management’, ‘good governance’, ‘politics-administration dichotomy’ and ‘modernising government’ in light of the public interest		X	X	
2.	Understand the nature of recent trends in the changing roles and relationships between the state, public and private sectors, the reasons for these and their practical implications		X	X	
3.	Apply concepts and theories of government, governance and public administration / management to the empirical world.		X	X	X
		100%			

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

(LTAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

LTA	Brief Description	CILO No.			Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	
1. Readings	Students will be expected to read essential readings on all topics	x	x	x	
2. Lectures	Lectures will enable students to acquire knowledge of key concepts and theories of public administration / management, governance, political systems and political institutions.	x	x	x	
3. In-class discussions	Students will form groups to discuss tutorial questions	x	x	x	
4. Essay	Each student will be required to write an essay (1,800-2,000 words) to respond to a tutorial question.	x	x	x	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.			Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3		
Continuous assessment: 100%					
In-class discussion	x	x	x	10	
Individual paper (1,800-2,000 words)	x	x	x	40	
Test	x	x	x	50	
				100%	

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
In-class discussion Individual Paper	Analytical response to the tutorial question in discussion and writing	Comprehensive understanding and critical analysis of government's operations, political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values, as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Excellent research, writing and communication skills.	Fairly good understanding and analysis of government's operations, political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values, as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Fairly good research, writing and communication skills.	Rudimentary understanding and analysis of government's operations, political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values, as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Rudimentary research, writing and communication skills.	Poor understanding and analysis of government's operations, political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values, as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Poor research, writing and communication skills.	Almost no understanding and analysis of government's operations, political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values, as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Bad research, writing and communication skills.
Test	Quality of responses to test questions	Comprehensive understanding and critical analysis of government's operations, political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values, as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Excellent writing and analytical skills.	Fairly good understanding and analysis of government's operations, political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values, as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Fairly good writing and analytical skills.	Rudimentary understanding and analysis of government's operations, political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values, as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Rudimentary writing and analytical skills.	Poor understanding and analysis of government's operations, political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values, as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Poor writing and analytical skills.	Almost no understanding and analysis of government's operations, political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values, as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Bad writing and analytical skills.

Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
In-class discussion Individual Paper	Analytical response to the tutorial question in discussion and writing	Comprehensive understanding and critical analysis of government's operations, political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values, as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Excellent research, writing and communication skills.	Fairly good understanding and analysis of government's operations, political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values, as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Fairly good research, writing and communication skills.	Rudimentary understanding and analysis of government's operations, political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values, as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Rudimentary research, writing and communication skills.	Almost no understanding and analysis of government's operations, political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values, as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Bad research, writing and communication skills.
Test	Quality of responses to test questions	Comprehensive understanding and critical analysis of government's operations, political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values, as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Excellent writing and analytical skills.	Fairly good understanding and analysis of government's operations, political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values, as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Fairly good writing and analytical skills.	Rudimentary understanding and analysis of government's operations, political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values, as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Rudimentary writing and analytical skills.	Almost no understanding and analysis of government's operations, political issues and events, relationships among political actors, the process of authoritative allocation of public values, as well as their implications for public administration and governance. Bad writing and analytical skills.

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Public administration, public management, good governance, civil service, public sector, private sector, public values, regime types, political institutions, electoral systems, political participation, civic engagement, policy processes, international organisations, sustainable development goals

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

Fong, Brian C. H. 2015. *Hong Kong's governance under Chinese sovereignty: The failure of the state-business alliance after 1997*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.

Haglund, Jillienne. 2021. "International Organizations." In *Political Science Is for Everybody: An Introduction to Political Science*, edited by Amy I. Atchison, 377-400. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Hague, Rod, Martin Harrop, and John McCormick. 2016. *Comparative Government and Politics*. 10th ed. London: Palgrave.

Hughes, Owen E.. 2012. *Public Management and Administration: An Introduction*. 4th ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Knill, Christoph, and Jale Tosun. 2012. *Public Policy: A New Introduction*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, Ch.3.

Lee, Eliza W.Y., Elaine Y.M. Chan, Joseph C.W. Chan, Peter T.Y. Cheung, Wai Fung Lam, and Wai Man Lam. 2012. *Public Policymaking in Hong Kong: Civic Engagement and State-Society Relations in a Semi-Democracy*. London: Routledge.

Møller, Jørgen, and Svend-Erik Skaaning. 2013. "Regime Types and Democratic Sequencing." *Journal of Democracy* 24 (1): 142-155.

Nanda, Ved P. 2006. "The "Good Governance" Concept Revisited." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 603: 269-283.

Schillemans, Thomas. 2015. "Managing Public Accountability: How Public Managers Manage Public Accountability." *International Journal of Public Administration* 38 (6): 433-441.

Vyas, Lina, and Sabrina Luk. 2012. "The protruding implications of privatization: attractive potentials leading to unpleasant consequences." *Journal of Asian Public Policy* 5 (3): 322-332.

Yang, Hongxing, and Dingxin Zhao. 2015. "Performance Legitimacy, State Autonomy and China's Economic Miracle." *Journal of Contemporary China* 24 (91): 64-82.

2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

Acemoglu, Daron, and James A. Robinson. 2019. *The narrow corridor: states, societies, and the fate of liberty*. New York: Penguin Books.

- Bovaird, Tony & E. Löffler (2009). *Public Management and Governance*. New York : Routledge
- della Porta, Donatella, and Mario Diani. 2006. *Social Movements: An Introduction*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Diamond, Larry Jay. 2002. "Thinking About Hybrid Regimes." *Journal of Democracy* 13 (2): 21-35.
- Diamond, Larry Jay. 2019. *Ill Winds: Saving Democracy from Russian Rage, Chinese Ambition, and American Complacency*. New York: Penguin Books.
- Ekiert, Grzegorz, Elizabeth J. Perry, and Xiaojun Yan, eds. 2020. *Ruling by other means: state-mobilized movements*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Fung, Courtney J. 2019. *China and Intervention at the UN Security Council: Reconciling Status*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Haggard, Stephan, and Robert R. Kaufman. 1995. *The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Lee, Eliza W. Y. 2020. "State-Mobilized Campaign and the Prodemocracy Movement in Hong Kong, 2013–2015." In *Ruling by Other Means: State-mobilized Movements*, edited by Grzegorz Ekiert, Elizabeth J. Perry and Xiaojun Yan, 291-313. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan A. Way. 2002. "Elections Without Democracy: The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism." *Journal of Democracy* 13 (2): 51-65.
- Mainwaring, Scott. November 1989. *Transitions to Democracy and Democratic Consolidation: Theoretical and Comparative Issues*. Kellogg Institute.
- Ortmann, Stephan, and Mark R. Thompson. 2014. "China's obsession with Singapore: learning authoritarian modernity." *The Pacific Review* 27 (3): 433-455.
- Pei, Minxin. 2021. "China: Totalitarianism's Long Shadow." *Journal of Democracy* 32 (2): 5-21.
- Scott, Ian. 2010. *The Public Sector in Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

Journals and Online Resources:

1. *International Journal of Public Administration*
2. *International Review of Administrative Sciences*
3. *Public Money and Management*
4. *Asian Review of Public Administration*
5. *Public Administration Review*
6. Hong Kong Government website: <http://www.gov.hk>
7. OECD (2005) *Modernising Government: The Way Forward*. Available at: http://www.oecd.org/document/15/0,2340,en_2649_201185_35405455_1_1_1_1,00.html
8. United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>