

City University of Hong Kong

**Information on a Course
offered by Department of Public Policy
with effect from Semester A in 2013/2014**

Part I

Course Title:	Comparative Public Policy
Course Code:	POL6201
Course Duration:	One semester
No. of Credit Units:	3
Level:	P6
Medium of Instruction:	English
Prerequisites:	Nil
Precursors:	Nil
Equivalent Courses:	Nil
Exclusive Courses:	Nil

Part II

1. Course Aims:

This course will develop students' knowledge on the major theoretical approaches which have been developed for cross-national studies, policy transfer and lesson learning in policy-making. Students will critically assess and synthesize the applicability of these theories for analyzing public policy development in Southeast and East Asia in the context of an increasingly pluralized world. Major public policy areas (for example, environment, education, social security, and health care) will be identified for comparison in light of the global public policy trends and changing governance models in public policy. Students will apply theories and evidence from other countries and reflect on processes of policy transfer to into Hong Kong to enable them to question policy processes, synthesize knowledge from different places and disciplines and consider the nature of policy in Hong Kong.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Evaluate different theoretical approaches that have been developed for cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning.	
2.	Compare and contrast different approaches or strategies adopted by selected countries in response to changing policy processes and tools, policy contexts and policy problems.	
3.	Critically analyse the extent to which developments in the technical (socio-economic and socio-political) and institutional environment have affected public policy development in Southeast and East Asia;	
4.	Apply academic knowledge and analytic skills to real-world problems in by examining options for policy transfer.	
5.	Develop the acquisition of skills in research and writing, communication, team-work, discussion and presentation.	

3. Teaching and learning Activities (TLAs)

(designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs)

CILO No	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
CILO 1,2,3,4	Reading of two papers/chapters every week on average by every student. The focus of readings is guided by theories and important concepts that apply policy transfer processes to the Hong Kong context	2
CILO 1,2,3,4	Lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To explain concepts, theories, methods in cross-national comparisons of public policies, policy transfer and learning and policy processes and policy tools. - To analyze the impact of technical and institutional contexts on policy formulation and policy provision - Apply the theoretical knowledge to analyze public policies in Southeast and East Asia 	2
CILO 1,2,3,4	Workshops: students to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise questions and make critical observations on lecture materials; - Apply knowledge and methods of cross-national studies to reflect on public policy in the Hong Kong context; and - Compare the theoretical and empirical approaches of public policy in different countries 	1
CILO 4,5	Group Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group presenters to present the findings of their group research - All students to raise questions, critique and give comments on the presentations 	1
CILO 4,5	Essay Writing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To do undertake research on two chosen topics that will require the implementation of research skills and the synthesis of knowledge and evidence from different places Submit two individual papers (about 3000-4000 words)	10 in total (for, library search, reading and writing up)

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities

(designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs)

CILO No	Type of assessment tasks/activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
CILO 4,5	Group Presentation	20%	Students are required to undertake a group research project to compare a policy of their choice
CILO 4,5	2 Essays (about 3,000 – 4,000 words)	80%	Essay 1: Students independently research policy tools from another country and critically reflect on the process of adopting them to Hong Kong Essay 2: Students individually write up their group presentation

5. Grading of Student Achievement: Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees.

Letter Grade	Grading criteria in relation to CILOs
A+ A A-	High standard of being able to recognise, explain and compare distinct theoretical approaches to cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning. High standard of being able to recognise, explain and compare distinct methodological approaches to cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning. Highly innovative ability to relate literature review of cutting-edge topics to cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning. Strong demonstration of critical ability to interpret data and argument. Strong ability to apply theory and method in the study of cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning to topical issues. Excellent accomplishment of writing and oral presentation.
B+ B B-	Fairly high standard of being able to recognise, explain and compare distinct theoretical approaches to cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning. Fairly high standard of being able to recognise, explain and compare distinct methodological approaches to cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning. Fairly innovative ability to relate literature review of cutting-edge topics to cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning Fairly good demonstration of critical ability to interpret data and argument Fairly strong ability to apply theory and method in the study of cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning to topical issues. Fairly strong accomplishment of writing and oral presentation

<p>C+</p> <p>C</p> <p>C-</p>	<p>Rudimentary standard of being able to recognise, explain and compare distinct theoretical approaches to cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning</p> <p>Basic standard of being able to recognise, explain and compare distinct methodological approaches to cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning.</p> <p>Little innovative ability to relate literature review of cutting-edge topics to cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning</p> <p>Weak demonstration of critical ability to interpret data and argument</p> <p>Basic ability to apply theory and method in the study of cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning to topical issues</p> <p>Basic accomplishment of writing and oral presentation</p>
<p>D</p>	<p>Poor standard of being able to recognise, explain and compare distinct theoretical approaches to cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning</p> <p>Poor standard of being able to recognise, explain and compare distinct methodological approaches to cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning</p> <p>Very little innovative ability to relate literature review of cutting-edge topics to cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning</p> <p>Very little demonstration of critical ability to interpret data and argument</p> <p>Very little ability to apply theory and method in the study of cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning to topical issues</p> <p>Weak accomplishment of writing and oral presentation</p>
<p>F</p>	<p>Almost no standard of being able to recognise, explain and compare distinct theoretical approaches to cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning</p> <p>Almost no standard of being able to recognise, explain and compare distinct methodological approaches to cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning</p> <p>No innovative ability to relate literature review of cutting-edge topics to cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning</p> <p>Almost no demonstration of critical ability to interpret data and argument</p> <p>Almost no ability to apply theory and method in the study of cross-national studies, policy transfer and learning to topical issues</p> <p>Very inadequate accomplishment of writing and oral presentation</p>

Part III

Keyword Syllabus:

Major theoretical approaches and methodology in comparative public policy; policy transfer; policy learning; international comparative public policy studies; education policy; health policy; social security policy; Southeast and East Asian welfare model; globalization and public policy; public policies in Hong Kong; applying policy from other countries to Hong Kong.

Illustrative Recommended Reading:

- Asher, Mukul and Newman, David. 2001. "Hong Kong and Singapore: Two Approaches to the Provision of Pensions in Asia", *Journal of Pensions Management*. 7, 2, 155-166.
- Bennett, Colin J. and Michael Howlett. 1992. "The Lessons for Learning: Reconciling Theories of Policy Learning and Policy Change". *Policy Sciences* 25, 275-94.
- Blank, Robert and Burau, Viola, 2004. *Comparative Health Policy* London: Palgrave.
- Fischer, F., G. Miller and M. Sidney (eds.) *Handbook of Public Policy Analysis: Theory, Politics, and Methods*, London: CRC Press. Ebook
- Heidenheimer, A. et al. 1990. *Comparative Public Policy*. 3rd Edn. New York: Macmillan.
- Holliday Ian and Linda Wong. 2003. "Social Policy under One Country, Two Systems: Institutional Dynamics in China and Hong Kong since 1997", *Public Administration Review*, 63, 3, 269-282.
- Holliday, Ian. 2005. "East Asian Social Policy in the Wake of the Financial Crisis: Farewell to Productivism?" *Policy & Politics*, 33, 1, 145-162.
- Howlett, M., Ramesh, M. and Perl, A. 2009. *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems*, 3rd edn., Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.
- Hsiao, William, 1992. "Comparing Health Care Systems: What Nations can Learn from One Another", *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*. 17, 4, 571-593.
- Jreisat, Jamil E. 2002. *Comparative Public Administration and Policy*. Boulder CO: Westview.
- Ku, Yeun-wen, 2003. "Social Security" in Holliday and Wilding, ed, *Welfare Capitalism in East Asia: Social Policy in the Tiger Economics*. London: Palgrave.
- Landman, Todd. 2008. *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction*. London: 2nd Edn. Routledge. Ebook
- Lloyd-Sherlock, Peter, 2002. "Formal Social Protection for Older People in Developing Countries: Three Different Approaches", *Journal of Social Policy*, 31, 4, 695-713.
- Ramesh, M. 2004. *Social Policy in East and Southeast Asia: Education, Health, Housing and Income Maintenance*. New York: Routledge. Ebook.
- Rose, R. 2005, *Learning from Comparative Public Policy: A Guide to Lesson Drawing*, London: Routledge. Ebook.
- Scott, Claudia. 2001. *Public and Private Roles in Health Care Systems: Reform in Seven OECD Countries*. Buckingham: Open University Press.