City University of Hong Kong Course Syllabus

offered by Department of Public and International Affairs with effect from Semester A 2024/2025

Part I Course Overv	riew
Course Title:	Values and Choice in Public Policy
Course Code:	PIA5401
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)	POL5401 Values and Choice in Public Policy
Exclusive Courses: (Course Code and Title)	Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims to

- examine the rationale and the context of the study of public policy with a view to articulating, applying, and advancing a public service perspective;
- analyse the relationship between the state, society and public policy;
- · assess policy ethics and capacity in Hong Kong;
- discuss the impacts of globalization and its consequences on public policy;
- develop ideas about the relationship between values and the normative basis of public policy;
- examine, compare and evaluate different moral principles and ethical theories shaping public policy;
- enable students to develop their ideas about the moral basis of public policy making in Hong Kong.

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)	learnin	llum rel g outco tick	lated omes
1.	detect the scope, the rationale and the functions of public policy and policy analysis, and define the concept of rationality as used in public policy-making		√ V	√ V	713
2.	examine the major theories of the state: liberalism, socialism, communitarianism, perfectionism, pluralism, corporatism, elitism, Marxism, institutionalism (historical and rational choice), and public choice; and analyse the relationship between the state, society and its implications for public policy		V		
3.	assess the implications of globalization for public policy in the areas of immigration, citizenship, and multiculturalism			1	V
4.	analyse the normative basis of public policy				
5.	examine and compare the major moral principles and ethical theories shaping public policy			1	1
6.	apply these moral principles and ethical theories to analyse and assess public policy in Hong Kong				$\sqrt{}$
		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	CIL	CILO No.				Hours/week	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	(if
								applicable)
Lectures	Introduce and explain key concepts and theories about normative values and public policy		V	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	V	V	
Group discussions & presentations	Examine and compare the major moral principles and political theories shaping public policy and analyse and assess public policy in Hong Kong				$\sqrt{}$	V	V	
Individual essays	Analyse the normative basis and evaluate the ethics of particular public policy and develop one's own view					V	√	

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	4	5	6		
Continuous Assessment: 100%								
Quiz							50%	
Group presentation							20%	
Individual essay							30%	
							100%	

Course Syllabus PIA5401 Jun 2024

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	Criterion	Excellent	Good	Fair	Marginal	Failure
Task		(A+, A, A-)	(B+, B, B-)	(C+, C, C-)	(D)	(F)
Quiz	Performance	An excellent standard of	A generally good	Rudimentary knowledge	Poor knowledge and	Almost no knowledge or
	in Quiz	knowledge and	standard of knowledge	and limited	very limited	understanding of the
	,	understanding of the	and understanding of	understanding of the	understanding of the	contexts, processes,
Group	Students' involvement	contexts, processes,	the contexts, processes,	contexts, processes, rationales and ethical	contexts, processes,	rationales and ethical basis of public policy
presentation		rationales and ethical basis	rationales and ethical	basis of public policy	rationales and ethical	formulation in
	in Group presentation	of public policy formulation in	basis of public policy formulation in	formulation in	basis of public policy formulation in	contemporary society.
Individual	Performance	contemporary society. A	contemporary society.	contemporary society.	contemporary society.	Unable to relate
essay	in individual	strong ability to relate this	A sound ability to	A weak ability to relate this understanding to	Very little ability to	knowledge critically to normative questions and
Cosay	essay	understanding to	relate this	normative questions and	relate this	issues in the relationship
	-	normative questions and	understanding to	issues in the relationship	understanding to	between the state and
		issues in the relationship	normative questions	between the state and	normative questions	the public and its
		between the state and the	and issues in the	the public and its	and issues in the	manifestations in the
		public and its	relationship between	manifestations in the	relationship between	sphere of public policy-
		manifestations in the	the state and the public	sphere of public policy- making. A weak	the state and the	making. Almost no abilities to appraise and
		sphere of public policy-	and its manifestations	demonstration of critical	public and its	apply key theoretical
		making. Strong	in the sphere of public	abilities to appraise and	manifestations in the	public policy models
		demonstration of critical	policy-making. A clear	apply key theoretical	sphere of public	and processes to ethical
		ability to appraise and	demonstration of	public policy models	policy-making.	issues in Hong Kong
		apply key theoretical	critical ability to	and processes to ethical	Only basic abilities to	and China. A minimum
		public policy models and	appraise and apply key	issues in Hong Kong	appraise and apply	standard of
		processes to ethical issues	theoretical public	and China. A basic	key theoretical public	understanding and
		in Hong Kong and China.	policy models and	standard of	policy models and	unable to discuss and
		High standards of	processes to ethical	understanding and of abilities to discuss and	processes to ethical	debate critical issues as they relate both to
		understanding and of	issues in Hong Kong	debate critical issues as	issues in Hong Kong	general ethical
		abilities to discuss and	and China. A good	they relate both to	and China. Little	principles and practices
		debate those issues as they	standard of	general ethical	demonstration of	underlying public
		relate both to general	understanding and of	principles and practices	understanding and of	policy-making and to
		ethical principles and	abilities to discuss and	underlying public	abilities to discuss and	particular developments
		practices underlying	debate critical issues as	policy-making and to	debate critical issues	occurring in Hong Kong
		public policy-making and	they relate both to	particular developments	as they relate both to	and China. Inadequate
		to particular developments	general ethical	occurring in Hong Kong	general ethical	research, writing, team-
		occurring in Hong Kong	principles and practices	and China. Research,	principles and	work and/or

and China. Very strong research, writing, teamwork and communication skills.	underlying public policy-making and to particular developments occurring in Hong Kong and China. Generally competent research, writing, team-	writing, team-work and communication skills present but at minimum standards.	practices underlying public policy-making and to particular developments occurring in Hong Kong and China. Underdeveloped research, writing,	communication skills.
	work and communication skills.		team-work and communication skills.	

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

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent	Good	Marginal	Failure
		(A+, A, A-)	(B+, B)	(B-, C+, C)	(F)
Quiz	Performance in Quiz	An excellent standard of	A generally good	Rudimentary knowledge	Almost no knowledge or
		knowledge and	standard of knowledge	and limited understanding	understanding of the
		understanding of the	and understanding of	of the contexts, processes,	contexts, processes,
Group presentation	Students' involvement in	contexts, processes,	the contexts, processes,	rationales and ethical basis	rationales and ethical basis
	Group presentation	rationales and ethical	rationales and ethical	of public policy	of public policy
Tu dividend access	Performance in individual	basis of public policy	basis of public policy	formulation in	formulation in
Individual essay		formulation in	formulation in	contemporary society. A weak ability to relate this	contemporary society. Unable to relate
	essay	contemporary society.	contemporary society.	understanding to	knowledge critically to
		A strong ability to relate	A sound ability to relate	normative questions and	normative questions and
		this understanding to	this understanding to	issues in the relationship	issues in the relationship
		normative questions and	normative questions and	between the state and the	between the state and the
		issues in the	issues in the	public and its	public and its
		relationship between the	relationship between the	manifestations in the	manifestations in the
		state and the public and	state and the public and	sphere of public policy-	sphere of public policy-
		its manifestations in the	its manifestations in the	making. A weak	making. Almost no
		sphere of public policy-	sphere of public policy-	demonstration of critical	abilities to appraise and
		making. Strong	making. A clear	abilities to appraise and	apply key theoretical
		demonstration of	demonstration of	apply key theoretical	public policy models and processes to ethical issues
		critical ability to	critical ability to	public policy models and processes to ethical issues	in Hong Kong and China.
		appraise and apply key	appraise and apply key	in Hong Kong and China.	A minimum standard of
		theoretical public policy	theoretical public policy	A basic standard of	understanding and unable
		models and processes to	models and processes to	understanding and of	to discuss and debate
		ethical issues in Hong	ethical issues in Hong	abilities to discuss and	critical issues as they
		Kong and China. High	Kong and China. A	debate critical issues as	relate both to general
İ		Kong and China. High	Kong and Cillia. A		<u> </u>

	standards of understanding and of abilities to discuss and debate those issues as they relate both to general ethical principles and practices underlying public policy-making and to particular developments occurring in Hong Kong and China. Very strong research, writing, team- work and communication skills.	good standard of understanding and of abilities to discuss and debate critical issues as they relate both to general ethical principles and practices underlying public policy-making and to particular developments occurring in Hong Kong and China. Generally competent research, writing, team-work and communication skills.	they relate both to general ethical principles and practices underlying public policy-making and to particular developments occurring in Hong Kong and China. Research, writing, team-work and communication skills present but at minimum standards.	ethical principles and practices underlying public policy-making and to particular developments occurring in Hong Kong and China. Inadequate research, writing, teamwork and/or communication 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 policy; liberty, equality, democracy; welfare state; liberalism; libertarianism; pluralism; corporatism; elitism, Marxism; public choice; immigration; citizenship; multiculturalism; civic virtue; civic education; perfectionism; globalization; utilitarianism; human rights; state neutrality, social justice; feminism and gender equality; communitarianism; common good; Confucianism; virtue ethics; harmony; nationalism.

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.)

- 1. John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1999)
- 2. Joh Rawls, Political Liberalism (New York: Columbia University Press, 1993)
- 3. Robert Nozick, Anarchy, State, and Utopia (New York: Basic Books, 1974)
- 4. Michael Wazler, Spheres of Justice (New York: Basic Books, 1993)
- 5. Amy Gutmann and Denise Thompson, *Democracy and Disagreement* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1996)
- 6. Harry Frankfurt, On Inequality (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015)
- 7. Elizabeth Anderson, "What is the Point of Equality?" Ethics 109:2 (1999), pp. 287-337
- 8. Joseph Carens, *The Ethics of Immigration* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013)
- 9. David Miller, *Strangers in Our Midst: The Political Philosophy of Immigration* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2016)
- 10. Will Kymlicka, *Multicultural Citizenship* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995)
- 11. Daniel A. Bell, Beyond Liberal Democracy (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006)
- 12. Ruiping Fan, Reconstructionist Confucianism: Rethinking Morality after the West (Dordrecht: Springer, 2010)

Online Resources:

http://www.gov.hk

2.2 Additional Readings

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

Nil