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 Overv	riew
Course Title:	Key Issues in Chinese Politics
Course Code:	PIA5708
Course Duration:	1 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)	POL5708 Key Issues in Chinese Politics
Exclusive Courses: (Course Code and Title)	Nil

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Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims to examine the key issues of contemporary Chinese politics. The discussion assesses how the institutional structure and interactions amongst major stakeholders (the Party, national government, local administrations, enterprises, civil society, international community and actors, etc.) affect the process and outcomes of politics. Upon completion of this course, students are expected to develop a good understanding of the logic and challenges of the contemporary Chinese governance institutions and working.

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		ery-en	
		(if	curricu	ılum re	lated
		applicable)	learnir	ng outco	omes
			(please	e tick	where
			approp	oriate)	
			Al	A2	A3
1.	Understand relations between political issues, institutions	30	X	X	X
	and actors				
2.	Develop critical understanding of major institutions and	40	X	X	X
	workings in contemporary China and analytical skills in				
	dissecting complex issues				
3.	Develop working skills in a team setting	15	X	X	X
4.	Enhance oral and written skills for persuasive	15	X	X	X
	communication in an academic setting				
•		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.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)
(LTAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

LTA	Brief Description		ILC) N	o.		Hours/week (if	
		1	2	3	4			applicable)
Lectures	Core concepts and examples.	X	X		X			
Group	Student led presentations and discussions	X	X	X	X			
presentations	(team work)							
Mini	Individual mini- presentations on reading	X	X		X			
individual presentations	reviews/observations							

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			
Continuous Assessment:100%							
Individual Analytical Essay	X	X	X	X		20	
Group Project	X	X	X	X		20	
Individual mini-presentations on reading	X	X		\mathbf{X}		30	
reviews							
Quiz	X	X		X		30	
						100%	

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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	Good	Fair	Marginal	Failure
		(A+, A, A-)	(B+, B, B-)	(C+, C, C-)	(D)	(F)
Group Project (presentations and slides)	Topic	Topic is excellently defined and very clearly stated.	Topic is defined well and clearly stated.	Topic is defined with a fair degree of clarity.	Topic is partly defined, showing good efforts in attempting a definition.	Topic not defined or poorly defined.
	Analysis	Entirely demonstrates rigorous ability and competence to analyse and evaluate issues and concepts in the field.	Generally, demonstrates rigorous ability and competence to analyse and evaluate issues and concepts in the field.	Demonstrates a fair degree of ability and competence to analyse and evaluate issues and concepts in the field.	Demonstrates good efforts in attempting an analysis and some success in analysis.	Overall, does not demonstrate the ability or competence to analyse and evaluate issues and concepts in the field.
	Structure	Organization and structure excellent. Arguments are well structured and supported by relevant concepts and empirical examples.	Organization and structure clear. Arguments are structured and supported by some relevant concepts and empirical examples.	Organization and structure mostly clear. Arguments are not well-structured, and lack support by relevant concepts and empirical examples.	Demonstrates efforts in attempting at organizing and structuring the materials, with some limited success.	Organization and structure lacking. Unorganised information.
	Source material	Source material is incorporated logically and insightfully. Sources are documented accurately.	Good incorporation of source material. Good use of source documentation.	Achieving a basic level of incorporation of source material and use of source documentation.	Demonstrates efforts in use and documentation of source materials with some partial success.	Source material mostly not incorporated. Inaccurate documentation.
	Critical thinking	Demonstration of excellent knowledge and skills in original and creative research	Demonstration of strong knowledge and skills in original and creative research and	Demonstration of a basic level of knowledge and skills in original and creative	Demonstration of weak knowledge and skills in original and	Almost no demonstration of critical ability to interpret data and

		and critical thinking.	critical thinking.	research and critical thinking.	creative research and critical thinking.	argument.
	Presentation quality	Excellent ideas/concepts supported by excellent and articulate details/illustrations.	Good ideas/concepts supported by articulate details/illustrations.	Adequate ideas/concepts supported by adequate and articulate details/illustrations.	Demonstrates good efforts in generating and articulating ideas/concepts with some details and illustrations.	Fails to articulate ideas/concepts supported by appropriate details/illustrations.
	Team work	Excellent team work collaboration.	Good team work collaboration.	Adequate team work collaboration.	Demonstrates good efforts in engaging in team work.	Unable to demonstrate adequate team work collaboration.
	Q&A	Excellent responds to audience questions.	Good responds to audience questions.	Responds to audience questions.	Demonstrates good efforts to respond to audience questions.	Fails to adequately respond to audience questions.
Quiz	Responding to questions	Response very clearly stated and answer is excellently argued.	Response clearly stated and answer is argued well.	Response adequately stated and answer is adequately argued.	Response stated with a fair degree of clarity and accuracy.	Response unstated and answer not argued.
	Ability to reflect	Excellently demonstrate ability to reflect.	Clearly demonstrate ability to reflect.	Demonstrate some ability to reflect.	Demonstrates good efforts to reflect.	Fail to demonstrate ability to reflect.
Individual Analytical Essay	Ability to organize materials, and to argue coherently with evidence and substantiations	High standard of knowledge, critical reasoning and original ideas of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Strong ability to analyse the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary	Good knowledge and critical reflection of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Ability to analyse the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as	Basic knowledge of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Marginally functional ability to explain the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare	Limited knowledge of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Weak functional ability to explain the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary	Poor knowledge of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Very weak ability to explain the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to

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		Chinese politics, as	well as to compare	and evaluate the	Chinese politics,	compare and
		well as to compare	and evaluate the	major political,	as well as to	evaluate the
		and evaluate the	major political,	economic, and social	compare and	major political,
		major political,	economic, and social	events and policy	evaluate the	economic, and
		economic, and social	events and policy	moves in China.	major political,	social events and
		events and policy	moves in China.	Basic analytic,	economic, and	policy moves in
		moves in China.	Good analytic,	writing and	social events and	China. Very weak
		Excellent analytic,	writing and	communication	policy moves in	analytic, writing
		writing and	communication	skills.	China. Weak	and
		communication	skills.		analytic, writing	communication
		skills.			and	skills.
					communication	
					skills.	
Individual Mini	Ability to get	Outstanding grasp of	Good grasp of the	Basic grasp of the	Limited grasp of	Weak grasp of the
Presentations on	to the gist of	the reading materials'	reading materials' core	reading materials' core	the reading	reading materials'
reading reviews	the reading	core arguments as well	arguments as well as	arguments with some	materials' core	core arguments
	materials and	as details; displaying	details; displaying	details; displaying a	arguments with	with little details;
	to give a	deep reflection on the	reflections on the	willingness to reflect	some details;	displaying a very
	cogent oral	contents and excellent	contents and effective	on the contents and	displaying limited	low level of
	summary and	delivery	delivery	functional delivery	willingness to	reflection on the
	to reflect upon				reflect on the	contents and weak
	it				contents and	delivery
					functional delivery	

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

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent	Good	Marginal	Failure
		(A+, A, A-)	(B+, B)	(B-, C+, C)	(F)
Group Project	Topic	Topic is excellently	Topic is defined well	Topic is defined and	Topic not defined.
(presentations and		defined and very clearly	and clearly stated.	adequately stated.	_
slides)		stated.			
	Analysis	Entirely demonstrates	Generally, demonstrates	Demonstrates some	Overall, does not
		rigorous ability to	rigorous ability to	ability to analyse and	demonstrate the ability
		analyse and evaluate	analyse and evaluate	evaluate issues and	to analyse and evaluate
		issues and concepts in	issues and concepts in	concepts in the field.	issues and concepts in
		the field.	the field.		the field.

	Structure	Organization and	Organization and	Organization and	Organization and
		structure excellent.	structure clear.	structure mostly clear.	structure lacking.
		Arguments are well	Arguments are	Arguments are not well-	Unorganised
		structured and	structured and	structured, and lack	information.
		supported by relevant	supported by some	support by relevant	
		concepts and empirical	relevant concepts and	concepts and empirical	
		examples.	empirical examples.	examples.	
	Source material	Source material is	Good incorporation of	Adequate incorporation	Source material not
		incorporated logically	source material. Good	of source material.	incorporated.
		and insightfully.	use of source	Adequate use of source	Documentation is
		Sources are documented	documentation.	documentation.	Inaccurate.
		accurately.			
	Critical thinking	Excellent demonstration	Good demonstration of	Adequate demonstration	Almost no
		of knowledge and skills	knowledge and skills	of knowledge and skills	demonstration of
		required for original and	required for original and	required for original and	critical ability to
		creative research and	creative research and	creative research and	interpret data and
		very high quality of	good quality of critical	average effort and	argument.
		critical thinking.	thinking.	ability to think	
			_	critically.	
	Presentation quality	Excellent	Good ideas/concepts	Adequate	Fails to produce
		ideas/concepts	supported by good and	ideas/concepts	adequate ideas/concepts
		supported by excellent	articulate	supported by adequate	supported by adequate
		and articulate	details/illustrations.	and articulate	and articulate
		details/illustrations.		details/illustrations.	details/illustrations.
	Team work	Excellent team work	Good team work	Adequate team work	Unable to demonstrate
		collaboration.	collaboration.	collaboration.	adequate team work
					collaboration.
	Q&A	Excellent responds to	Good responds to	Responds to audience	Fails to adequately
		audience questions.	audience questions.	questions.	respond to audience
					questions.
Quiz	Responding to	Response very clearly	Response clearly stated	Response adequately	Response unstated and
	questions	stated and answer is	and answer is argued	stated and answer is	answer not argued.
		excellently argued.	well.	adequately argued.	
	Ability to reflect	Excellently demonstrate	Clearly demonstrate	Demonstrate some	Fail to demonstrate
		ability to reflect on their			
		own experience in the			
		field.	field.	field.	field.

Individual	Ability to organize materials,	High standard of	Good knowledge and	Basic knowledge of	Poor knowledge of
Analytical Essay	and to argue coherently with	knowledge, critical	critical reflection of	the complexity of	the complexity of
	evidence and substantiations	reasoning and original	the complexity of	politics in	politics in
		ideas of the	politics in	contemporary China.	contemporary China.
		complexity of politics	contemporary China.	Marginally functional	Weak ability to
		in contemporary	Ability to analyse the	ability to explain the	explain the ideology,
		China. Strong ability	ideology, institutions	ideology, institutions	institutions and actual
		to analyse the	and actual operation	and actual operation	operation of
		ideology, institutions	of contemporary	of contemporary	contemporary
		and actual operation	Chinese politics, as	Chinese politics, as	Chinese politics, as
		of contemporary	well as to compare	well as to compare	well as to compare
		Chinese politics, as	and evaluate the	and evaluate the	and evaluate the
		well as to compare	major political,	major political,	major political,
		and evaluate the	economic, and social	economic, and social	economic, and social
		major political,	events and policy	events and policy	events and policy
		economic, and social	moves in China.	moves in China.	moves in China.
		events and policy	Good analytic,	Basic analytic,	Weak analytic,
		moves in China.	writing and	writing and	writing and
		Excellent analytic,	communication skills.	communication skills.	communication skills.
		writing and			
		communication skills.			
Individual Mini	Ability to get to the gist of the	Outstanding grasp of	Good grasp of the	Basic grasp of the	Limited grasp of the
Presentations on	reading materials and to give a	the reading materials'	reading materials' core	reading materials' core	reading materials' core
reading reviews	cogent oral summary and to	core arguments as well	arguments as well as	arguments with some	arguments with little
	reflect upon it	as details; displaying deep reflection on the	details; displaying reflections on the	details; displaying a willingness to reflect on	details; displaying a low level of reflection on
		contents and excellent	contents and effective	the contents and	the contents and weak
		delivery	delivery	functional delivery	delivery

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.)

Actors and Institutions; Paradoxes and Change; Social Control Structures; Centre-Periphery Dynamics; Belt and Road Initiative; Bureaucratic Slack; Domestic and External Challenges

2. Reading List

See Course Outline