City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

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

Part I   Course Overview

Course Title:	Politics and Political Philosophy
Course Code:	PIA8616
Course Duration:	one semester
Credit Units:	3
Level:	R8
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)*	**POL8616** Politics and Political Philosophy
Exclusive Courses: *(Course Code and Title)*	**Nil**

Part II   Course Details

1.   Abstract

Analysts of political science and political philosophy use ideas and theories as a means of understanding complex realities. Ideas and theories are helpful because they enable us to structure the way we think, to see relationships, to ask relevant questions and to provide explanations of political and policy phenomena. What ideas and theories we use will often depend on what we are trying to understand or explain and they may not always be adequate for our purpose. We may find that our initial ideas and theories need to be modified or that empirical material suggests that other theoretical explanations are more plausible. Most scholars have an open mind on these matters and approach research questions in a pragmatic manner: the best theory is the one that provides the most convincing ordering and explanation of the data.

The aims of this course are to think of the world in dynamic terms and, drawing upon a range of disciplines and theories, to explore critically the interconnections between different areas of politics and policy. This includes: (1) introducing the principles and theories of political science and public policy, (2) developing a critical understanding of theory and its limitations, (3) analysing the relevance of the major theories and the key drivers of contemporary issues that are reshaping politics and policy, and the ways in which this connects with real world problems. Further, this course introduces some dominant ideas and theories in political philosophy such as Kantian deontology, utilitarianism, and virtue ethics and examines how they are related to political theories that aim to explain as well as evaluate various political actions, decisions, and phenomena. By examining requisite ideas and theories, students are expected to cultivate a critical perspective on the best mode of government, what good government is, what is required for good leadership, and how best to arrive at the common good. A synergy between politics and political philosophy will be built, with emphases put on the questions of what is a good governance, a good political and just order.

2.   Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes		
			A1	*A2*	*A3*
1.	Synthesize and evaluate political science and public philosophy theories	25%	x	x	
2.	Critically valuate diverse source materials on political science and public philosophy	25%	x	x	
3.	Critically analyze political theory and political philosophy and apply to contemporary issues	25%	x	x	
4.	Apply knowledge of the course material to enrich research and theory building, particularly with respect to PhD dissertations and publications	15%		x	x
5.	Develop critical thinking and communication skills needed for dissertations and publications.	10%		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 self-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)

LTA	Brief Description	CILO No.						Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	5		
Lecturing	Lecturing	x	x	X				
Extensive reading	Extensive reading	x	x	X				
Student presentation	Student presentation	x	x	x	x			
Participation in class discussion	Participation in class discussion	x	x	x	x			
Essay writing	Essay writing	x	x	X	x	x		
Canvass/Consultation	Canvass/Consultation	x	x	X	x	x		

4.   Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.						Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4	5			
Continuous Assessment: 100 %								
Presentations and participation	x	x	x	X	x		20%	
Quizzes	x	x	x	X	x		40%	(two quizzes, each for 20%)
Individual Essay	x	x	x	X	x		40%	(about 5,000 words)
Examination: ____% (duration: , if applicable)								
							100%	

5. Assessment Rubrics

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

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
1. Presentations, and participation (20%)	Demonstration of knowledge in the mainstream literature of political science and political philosophy and skills and engagement required for presenting original and creative research ideas	Excellent demonstration of knowledge in the mainstream literature of political science and political philosophy and skills	Good demonstration of knowledge in the mainstream literature of political science and political philosophy and skills	Basic demonstration of knowledge in the mainstream literature of political science and political philosophy and skills	Inadequate demonstration of knowledge in the mainstream literature of political science and political philosophy and skills
2. Quizzes (20% x 2)	Demonstration of knowledge of political science and political philosophy and ability to use ideas and theories in political science and political philosophy to evaluate political problems or policy issues from a political science or philosophical perspective	Excellent demonstration of knowledge, understanding and interpretation of political science and political philosophy and ability to use ideas and theories in political science and political philosophy	Good demonstration of knowledge, understanding and interpretation of political science and political philosophy and ability to use ideas and theories in political science and political philosophy	Basic demonstration of knowledge, understanding and interpretation of political science and political philosophy and ability to use ideas and theories in political science and political philosophy	Inadequate demonstration of knowledge of chosen knowledge, understanding and interpretation of political science and political philosophy and ability to use ideas and theories in political science and political philosophy
3. Individual essay (About 5,000 words) (40%)	Ability to apply creative and critical thinking skills to research design and engage in theoretically-informed and empirically sound informed analysis	Excellent demonstration of knowledge, understanding and interpretation of methods used in political science and political philosophy	Good demonstration of knowledge, understanding and interpretation of methods used in political science and political philosophy	Basic demonstration of knowledge, understanding and interpretation of methods used in political science and political philosophy	Inadequate demonstration of knowledge of chosen knowledge, understanding and interpretation of methods used in political science and political philosophy

Applicable to the 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)
1. Presentations, and participation (20%)	Demonstration of knowledge in the mainstream literature of political science and political philosophy and skills and engagement required for presenting original and creative research ideas	Excellent demonstration of knowledge in the mainstream literature of political science and political philosophy and skills	Good demonstration of knowledge in the mainstream literature of political science and political philosophy and skills	Basic demonstration of knowledge in the mainstream literature of political science and political philosophy and skills	Poor demonstration of knowledge in the mainstream literature of political science and political philosophy and skills	Inadequate demonstration of knowledge in the mainstream literature of political science and political philosophy and skills
2. Quizzes (20% x 2)	Demonstration of knowledge of political science and political philosophy and ability to use ideas and theories in political science and political philosophy to evaluate political problems or policy issues from a political science or philosophical perspective	Excellent demonstration of knowledge, understanding and interpretation of political science and political philosophy and ability to use ideas and theories in political science and political philosophy	Good demonstration of knowledge, understanding and interpretation of political science and political philosophy and ability to use ideas and theories in political science and political philosophy	Basic demonstration of knowledge, understanding and interpretation of political science and political philosophy and ability to use ideas and theories in political science and political philosophy	Poor demonstration of knowledge, understanding and interpretation of political science and political philosophy and ability to use ideas and theories in political science and political philosophy	Inadequate demonstration of knowledge, understanding and interpretation of political science and political philosophy and ability to use ideas and theories in political science and political philosophy
3. Individual essay (About 5,000 words) (40%)	Ability to apply creative and critical thinking skills to research design and engage in theoretically-informed and empirically sound informed analysis	Excellent demonstration of knowledge, understanding and interpretation of methods used in political science and political philosophy	Good demonstration of knowledge, understanding and interpretation of methods used in political science and political philosophy	Basic demonstration of knowledge, understanding and interpretation of methods used in political science and political philosophy	Poor demonstration of knowledge, understanding and interpretation of methods used in political science and political philosophy	Inadequate demonstration of knowledge, understanding and interpretation of methods used in political science and political philosophy

Part III   Other Information

1.   Keyword Syllabus

The role of theory, the state and civil society, power, political institutions, legitimacy of power and moral order, institutionalism and path-dependency, political culture and behavior, neo-liberalism, globalization and local politics, governance and public management, public policy, sustainability and climate change, health, poverty and marginality, risk, demography, social conflict.

2.   Reading List

Recommended Reading:

Bell, Daniel. (2015). *The China Model*. Princeton University Press.

Gill, G. (2003). *The Nature and Development of the State.* Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan

Peters, B.G. (2005). *Institutional Theory in Political Science: 'The New Institutionalism'* 2nd edition. London: Continuum

Dahl, R. A. 1989. *Democracy and its Critics* (New Haven: Yale University Press.

Fan, Ruiping. (2011). *Reconstructionist Confucianism*. Springer.

Frederickson, H.G. and K.B. Smith, (2003). *Public Administration Theory Primer*. Boulder, Co.: Westview Press.

Kim, Sungmoon. (2016). *Public Reason Confucianism*. Cambridge University Press

Marsh D. and G. Stoker eds. 2002. *Theory and Methods in Political Science* 2nd edition. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Pierson, P. (2004). *Politics in Time: History and Institutions and Social Analysis* Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Pierson, C. (2004). *The Modern State* 2nd edition London: Routledge.

Migdal, S. J. (2001). *State in Society: Studying How States and Societies Transform and Constitute One Another.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Doogan,K.(2009) *New Capitalism? The Transformation of Work* Cambridge: Polity Press

Kennett, P. (Ed.) (2008) *Governance, Globalization and Public Policy*, Edward Elgar

LaFleur, V., Purvis, N. and Jones, A. (2009) *Double Jeopardy: What Climate Change Means for the Poor,*   Washington DC: Brookings

Mishra, R. (1999) *Globalization and the Welfare State* Edward Elgar Publishing Limited Glos.

Mols,P.J. (2008) *Environmental Reform in the Information Age; The Contours of Informational Governance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Nayyar,D. and Court,J. (2002) *Governing Globalization: Issues and Institutions* Helsinki: UN-Wider

Downloadable from: http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/policy-briefs/en_GB/policy-briefs/

Ramesh, M (2004), *Social Policy in East and Southeast Asia: Education, Health, Housing and Income Maintenance*, London; New York: RoutledgeCurzon

Rawls, John. (1971). *A Theory of Justice*. Massachusetts: Harvard University Press

Raz, John. (1986). *The Morality of Freedom*. Oxford University Press

Ronit, Karsten, *Global Public Policy*: *Business and the Countervailing Powers of Civil Society* (Oxford: Routledge, 2007) Ch.1

Singer, Peter. (1993). *A Companion to Ethics*. London: Blackwell

Stalker,P.(2000) *Workers Without Frontiers: The Impact of Globalization on International Migration*, International Labour Organization

Stern, N. (2007) *The Economics of Climate Change*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
  http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/stern_review_report.htm

Stiglitz, J (2002) *Globalization and its Discontents* London: Allen Lane

Walzer, Michael. (1983). *Spheres of Justice*. Basic Books.

Whitman,J. (2005) *The Limits of Global Governance* London: Routledge

Stubbs,R. and Underhill,G (Eds.) (2006 edition) *Political Economy and the Changing Global Order* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Weiss,L. (2003) *States in the Global Economy: Bringing Domestic Institutions Back In*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Wilkinson, R. (Ed) (2005) *The Global Governance Reader* London: Routledge

Online Resources

Brookings	http://www.brookings.edu/
Institute for Public Policy Research	http://www.ippr.org.uk/
OECD	http://www.oecd.org/home
RAND Public Policy Research	http://www.rand.org/research
UNFPA http://www.unfpa.org/public
UN-Wider	http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/en_GB/index/
World Bank	http://www.worldbank.org/