THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title : Master of Public Policy and Management
Programme QF Level : 6
Course Title : Poverty, Inequality and Social Policy
Course Code : PPG6021
Department : Department of Asian and Policy Studies
Credit Points : 3
Contact Hours : 39 hours
Pre-requisite(s) : Nil
Medium of Instruction : EMI
Course Level : 6

Part II

The University’s Graduate Attributes and seven Generic Intended Learning Outcomes (GILOs) represent the attributes of ideal EdUHK graduates and their expected qualities respectively. Learning outcomes work coherently at the University (GILOs), programme (Programme Intended Learning Outcomes) and course (Course Intended Learning Outcomes) levels to achieve the goal of nurturing students with important graduate attributes.

In gist, the Graduate Attributes for Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate and Research Postgraduate students consist of the following three domains (i.e. in short “PEER & I”):

- Professional Excellence;
- Ethical Responsibility; &
- Innovation.

The descriptors under these three domains are different for the three groups of students in order to reflect the respective level of Graduate Attributes.

The seven GILOs are:
1. Problem Solving Skills
2. Critical Thinking Skills
3. Creative Thinking Skills
4a. Oral Communication Skills
4b. Written Communication Skills
5. Social Interaction Skills
6. Ethical Decision Making
7. Global Perspectives

1. Course Synopsis
Urban poverty is becoming a widespread phenomenon following decades of economic globalization. The dominance of neo-liberalist economic ideology and the global “race to the bottom” have resulted in an increasing number of people living in polarized urban societies. Reducing poverty and improving socio-economic equality are important societal goals as they are vital to sustainable and inclusive development. In this course, we will introduce to students the conceptual skills and practical tools that allow them to critically examine the issue of poverty and inequality, and to identify solutions to the problems. The course will explore the philosophical underpinning of poverty reduction from the perspective of applied ethics and introduce different definitions of poverty and measurement approaches. The political economy, especially the ideology of neo-liberalism, and various types of welfare regimes will be discussed. The course will also examine various factors that lead to poverty as well as poverty reduction policies adopted by governments.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

CILO1: Engage in the conceptual and practical debate on the issue of poverty and poverty reduction
CILO2: Critically examine the efficacy of government poverty reduction strategy and policy
CILO3: Apply the knowledge of poverty definition and measurement to assess the extent of poverty in a society
CILO4: Formulate and articulate a policy response to the poverty situation of different disadvantage and vulnerable groups in a society

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Content</th>
<th>CILOs</th>
<th>Suggested Teaching &amp; Learning Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definitions and measures of poverty and the philosophical underpinning of poverty reduction</td>
<td>CILO1,3</td>
<td>Lecture and group discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trends in economic growth, economic inequality and polarization of the labor market</td>
<td>CILO1,2,4</td>
<td>Lecture, documentary screening, and group discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty reduction strategies and types of welfare regime</td>
<td>CILO1,4</td>
<td>Lecture, case study, and group discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Characteristics and needs of disadvantage and vulnerable groups in a society, including elderly, single</td>
<td>CILO2-4</td>
<td>Lecture, case study, group discussion and student presentation</td>
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parent, immigrant, ethnic minority, working poor and children

| Evaluating competing poverty reduction policies adopted by governments | CILO1-4 | Lecture, case study, group discussion and student presentation |

### 4. Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Tasks</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>CILOs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>CILO1-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b) Group Presentation – Students will form into groups of 3 and deliver a presentation (20 minutes) on a topic concerning social policy on poverty.</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>CILO1-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>(c) Written Examination – A 2-hour written examination will be held at the end of the course.</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>CILO1-4</td>
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### 5. Required Text(s)

Nil

### 6. Recommended Readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goodstadt, L. F.</td>
<td>Poverty in the midst of affluence: How Hong Kong mismanaged its prosperity.</td>
<td>Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haveman, R.</td>
<td>What does it mean to be poor in a rich society?</td>
<td>In M. Cancian &amp; S. Danziger (Eds.), <em>Changing poverty, Changing policies</em> (pp. 387-408). Russell Sage Foundation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
293-301.


Singer, P. (2002). Poverty, facts, and political philosophies. Ethics & International Affairs, 16(2), 121-4


7. Related Web Resources


The HK Council of Social Service: http://www.hkcss.org.hk/e/
8. Related Journals
Nil

9. Academic Honesty
The University adopts a zero tolerance policy to plagiarism. For the University’s policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity with Specific Reference to the Avoidance of Plagiarism by Students (https://www.eduhk.hk/re/modules/downloads/visit.php?cid=9&lid=89). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

10. Others
Nil

Updated as of 6 June 2019