

THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	:	Five Year full-time BEd programmes; Four Year full-time BA, BSocSc, BScEd and BSocScEd programmes
Course Title	:	Comparative Social Policy in Asia
Course Code	:	GCS2018
Department	:	Asian and Policy Studies
Credit Points	:	6
Contact Hours	:	78
Pre-requisite(s)	:	Nil
Medium of Instruction	:	EMI
Level	:	2

Part II

1. Synopsis:

This course aims at enhancing students' knowledge of social policy in Asia in the form of an intensive Summer School. It includes a series of lectures delivered by faculty of the Hong Kong Institute of Education, The University of Macau, and Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, combined with a series of experiential based learning exercises conducted with governmental and civic organizations. An interactive, experiential approach to learning is adopted through group discussions, field trips, cultural tours as well as engagement with policy practitioners concerned.

The module is designed primarily as a means to enhance a comparative understanding of the social policy domain in Asia, the challenges faced in specific national contexts, the problems associated with policy making and implementation, and exposure to a developing country context so that the logistical constraints of poor institutional capacities can be appreciated and analyzed. Further, the module is designed to bring together students from around the world and provide a platform for intercultural communication.

The course covers a variety of contemporary comparative social policy issues in Asia, including housing policy, social security and welfare measures, urban planning and community participation. Students will also be exposed to a variety of 'policy problems' by way of lectures, site visits, and exposure to NGOs addressing issues such as environmental protection, heritage conservation and the rise of creative industries in Asia.

The academic requirements of the module will be intensive, requiring students to undertake individual assessment items, including: a policy analysis exercise addressing one of the policy problems faced by a specific territory in Asia; a shorter paper responding to readings that will be aligned to a specific social policy problem (provision of housing policy, overcoming institutional capacity constraints, policy implementation of social protection measures, etc.). Students will also be required to provide a critical end-of-module paper on comparative social policy measures and outcomes in one specific

policy domain, and assess the comparative strengths and weaknesses of the policy approaches adopted in territories concerned (Hong Kong, Macau and Thailand).

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

CILO₁ understand the major social policy issues in selected Asian societies.

CILO₂ appreciate the complexity of issues concerned.

CILO₃ examine critically major challenges that these societies are confronting during the processes of rapid socio-economic and political transformation.

CILO₄ demonstrate an awareness of what policy responses that the selected Asian societies have adopted in coping with challenges concerned.

3. CILOs, Content and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Lectures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A variety of contemporary policy issues in Asia would be covered in a series of lectures. A comparative perspective is ensured through a selected body of lecturers who come from different Asian societies and research fields. 	CILO _{1,2,3,4}	Lecture
Group discussions & presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In general, each lecture would be followed by a discussion session led by the lecturer. A specific topic closely related to previous lecture would be set for group discussion among students. Group presentation is required after discussion for a sharing of different perspectives among students. 	CILO _{2,3,4}	Group discussion & presentation
Field trips / cultural tours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field trips / cultural tours to relevant institutions (government departments, NGOs, private enterprises, etc.) and local cultural and historical centers would be arranged as part of students' learning experience beyond classroom. It is also aim at enabling students to appreciate the broader policy context of issues concerned. 	CILO _{2,3,4}	Field trip to institution concerned & guided tour
Policy analysis exercise & other assessment tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are required to conduct a policy analysis exercise addressing one of the policy problems faced 	CILO _{2,3,4}	Written assignment

by a specific territory in Asia. • Other intensive assessment requirements including a shorter paper responding to readings of a specific social policy problem, as well as a critical end-of-module paper on comparative social policy measures in one specific policy domain and among the three territories (Hong Kong, Macau, Thailand).		
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4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
Policy analysis exercise: • Students are required to conduct a 1,500-word policy analysis exercise addressing one of the policy problems faced by a specific territory in Asia.	20%	<i>CILO_{1,2,3,4}</i>
Individual paper on readings: • Students are required to submit a 1,500-word paper responding to readings of a specific social policy problem (e.g. provision of housing policy, overcoming institutional capacity constraints, policy implementation of social protection measures).	30%	<i>CILO_{1,2,3,4}</i>
Individual end-of-module paper: • Students are required to complete a critical end-of-module paper (3,500 words, excluding references) on comparative social policy measures and outcomes in one specific policy domain, and assess the comparative strengths and weaknesses of the policy approaches adopted in the three territories (Hong Kong, Macau, Thailand).	50%	<i>CILO_{1,2,3,4}</i>

5. Required Text(s): Nil

6. Recommended Readings

- Bergsten, C.F. et al. (2008). *China's Rise: Challenges and Opportunities*. Washington, DC: Peterson Institute for International Economics & Center for Strategic and International Studies.
- Bridges, B. & Ho, L.S. (eds.) (2010). *Public Governance in Asia and the Limits of Electoral Democracy*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- Chan, C.K., Ngok, K.L. & Phillips, D. (2008). *Social Policy in China: Development and Well-being*, Bristol: Policy Press.

- Chiu, S. & Lui, T.L. (2009). *Hong Kong: Becoming a Chinese Global City*, London: Routledge.
- Chufrin, G. (ed.) (2006). *East Asia: Between Regionalism and Globalism*, Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.
- Fell, D. (2012). *Government and Politics in Taiwan*. Abingdon, England: Routledge.
- Hao, Zhidong. (2011). *Macau: History and Society*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Howlett, M., Ramesh, M. & Perl, A. (2009). *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems* (3rd edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Jarvis, D.S.L. & Welch A. (eds.) (2011). *ASEAN Industries and the Challenge from China*. Basingstoke, England: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Jusuf Wanandi. (2010). *East Asian Regionalism and the Role of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong.
- Lam, W.M., Lui, P.L.T & Wong W (eds.). (2012). *Contemporary Hong Kong Government and Politics* (Expanded 2nd edition). Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Mok, K.H. & Forrest, R. (2009). *Changing Governance and Public Policy in East Asia*, London: Routledge.
- Mok, K.H. & Ku, Y.W. (eds.) (2010). *Social Cohesion in Greater China: Challenges for Social Policy and Governance*, Singapore: World Scientific.
- Mori, K. & Hirano, K. (eds.) (2007). *A New East Asia: Toward a Regional Community*, Singapore: National University of Singapore Press.
- Neher, C.D. (2010). *Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World* (2nd edition). DeKalb, Illinois: Northern Illinois University Press.
- Perry, E.J. & Selden, M. (2010). *Chinese Societies: Change, Conflict and Resistance* (3rd edition). London: Routledge.
- Rahil Ismail, Shaw, B.J., Ooi, G.L. (eds.) (2009). *Southeast Asian Culture and Heritage in a Globalising World: Diverging Identities in a Dynamic Region*. Farnham, England: Ashgate Pub.
- Tang, W.F. & Holzner, B. (eds.) (2007). *Social Change in Contemporary China*, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.
- Tsang, S. (2004). *A Modern History of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Walter, A. & Zhang X.K. (2012). *East Asian Capitalism: Diversity, Continuity, and Change*. UK: Oxford University Press.

7. Related Web Resources

Name of webpage	Web link
ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)	http://www.asean.org/
APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation)	http://www.apec.org/
Asia Society_Policy	http://www.asiasociety.org/policy-politics
Asia Times	http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Front_Page.html
Asian Cultural Council	http://www.asianculturalcouncil.org/

The Economist_Asia	http://www.economist.com/world/asia
Project Syndicate_Asia	http://www.project-syndicate.org/asia

8. Related Journals

Contemporary Southeast Asia (Singapore University Press)

Critical Asian Studies (Routledge)

East Asia: An International Quarterly (Springer)

Journal of Asian Public Policy (Routledge)

Journal of Contemporary China (Routledge)

The China Quarterly (Cambridge University Press)

The Journal of Asian Studies (Association for Asian Studies)