

# THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

## Course Outline

### Part I

<b>Programme Title</b>	: Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Global and Environmental Studies
<b>Programme QF Level</b>	: 5
<b>Course Title</b>	: Introduction to Political Science
<b>Course Code</b>	: SSC1147
<b>Department</b>	: Social Sciences
<b>Credit Points</b>	: 3
<b>Contact Hours</b>	: 39
<b>Pre-requisite(s)</b>	: Nil
<b>Medium of Instruction</b>	: EMI
<b>Course Level</b>	: 1

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### 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

This course is designed to provide students with basic background knowledge on political science in preparation for their study of more advanced courses. It examines basic political theories and ideologies and functioning of different political systems, discusses policy making process and role of political institutions, political parties and interest groups, and analyzes interrelations between domestic and international affairs. Through lecture, case study, group discussion and debate, students are expected to gain an understanding of the rationales defining the discipline with a particular focus placed on their interaction with the global order.

### 2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILO<sub>s</sub>)

*Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*

- CILO<sub>1</sub> examine critically the basic features and theories of political science.
- CILO<sub>2</sub> understand the nature and functioning of political system of different forms.
- CILO<sub>3</sub> apply political concepts and theories to understand real-world political issues in both local and international contexts.
- CILO<sub>4</sub> develop critical thinking skills using multiple perspectives.

### 3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Political science as a social science discipline, its history and basic methodological approaches: institutionalism, pluralism and rationalism	CILO <sub>1</sub>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textual inquiry</li> <li>• Group discussion</li> </ul>
Political ideologies: liberalism, conservatism, socialism communism and critical perspectives like green thoughts and feminism	CILO <sub>1</sub>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textual inquiry</li> <li>• Group discussion</li> </ul>
Political institutions and process in democratic contexts; electoral system and political parties	CILO <sub>2</sub>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textual inquiry</li> <li>• Group discussion</li> </ul>
Alternative political systems: authoritarianism and totalitarianism	CILO <sub>2</sub>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textual inquiry</li> <li>• Group discussion</li> </ul>
Political participation, civil society, mass media and the internet	CILO <sub>1, 2</sub>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textual inquiry</li> <li>• Group discussion</li> <li>• Case studies</li> <li>• discussion of local and international contexts</li> </ul>
Public policy making theories and models	CILO <sub>1, 3</sub>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textual inquiry</li> <li>• Case studies of different policy domains and national contexts</li> </ul>
Political economy: economic development and welfare politics	CILO <sub>3, 4</sub>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textual inquiry</li> <li>• Group discussion</li> </ul>
Globalization and international relations: major theoretical outlooks of global order	CILO <sub>3, 4</sub>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textual inquiry</li> <li>• Group discussion</li> </ul>

#### 4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILOs
a. Class participation and presentation	25	<i>CILO</i> <sub>1,2,3,4</sub>
b. Final examination	35	<i>CILO</i> <sub>1,2,3,4</sub>
c. Two short papers	40	<i>CILO</i> <sub>1,2,3,4</sub>

#### 5. Required Texts

Roskin, M. (2012). *Political Science: An Introduction*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall (12<sup>th</sup> ed.).

Heywood, A (2013). *Politics*. London: Palgrave.

Blondel, J (1990), *Comparative Government: An Introduction*. Hemel Hempstead: Philip Allan.

Birkland, T (2005). *An Introduction to the Policy Process*. New York: M. E. Sharpe.

#### 6. Recommended Reading

Goodin, R. E. (1998). *A New Handbook of Political Science*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

#### 7. Related Web Resources

The Washington Quarterly

<http://twq.elliott.gwu.edu/>

The Brookings Institution

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/topics/asia-and-the-pacific>

China Leadership Monitor

<http://www.hoover.org/publications/china-leadership-monitor>

The Jamestown Foundation

<http://www.jamestown.org/>

#### 8. Related Journals

*Asian Journal of Political Science*.

*Asian Survey*.

*Foreign Affairs*.

*The Washington Quarterly*.

#### 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

*The Standard* (Hong Kong)

*South China Morning Post*

*The Economist*

*New York Times*

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