Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	:	All Undergraduate Programmes
Programme QF Level	:	5
Course Title	:	**Comparative Social Policy**
Course Code	:	GCS4029
Department(s)	:	Social Sciences and Policy Studies (Hosting) and Education Policy and Leadership (Collaborating)
Credit Points	:	3
Contact Hours	:	39
Pre-requisite(s)	:	Nil
Medium of Instruction	:	English
Course Level	:	4

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 Sub-degree, Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate, Professional Doctorate and Research Postgraduate students consist of the following three domains (i.e. in short "PEER & I"):
- **P**rofessional **E**xcellence;
- **E**thical **R**esponsibility; **&**
- **I**nnovation.

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 explores major social policy challenges and issues confronting societies in Asia, with a particular focus on Greater China. Adopting a comparative approach in analyzing policy formation and implementation, this course will enable students to understand the most recent developments related to major social policy areas like education, health, social welfare, housing, elderly, youth and ethnic minorities in Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau and other selected cities in Asia. This course also introduces different types of institutions (like the Non-Governmental Organizations) and modes of service delivery (like public private partnership) to students. Students will be engaged in comparing and contrasting major social policy issues of selected Asian societies, and appreciating the complexity of policy formation, implementation and evaluation from comparative perspectives.

2. **Course Intended Learning Outcomes** (CILOs)

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

CILO$_1$ Understand the different development experiences that societies in Asia have confronted;

CILO$_2$ Identify the characteristics of different approaches to social policy, including their socioeconomic-political orientations and value bases;

CILO$_3$ Explain the dynamic process of social policy formulation, implementation and evaluation in different Asian societies, with a particular focus on Greater China;

CILO$_4$ Compare and contrast policy strategies adopted by governments in Asia in promoting a more socially cohesive and politically stable environment.

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

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Introduction to Social Policy: Introduction to social policies: concepts, definitions, theories and practices; addressing their relationships to the social, economic and political development of a society.	*CILO$_1$*	• Lectures: presentation and discussion of the frameworks, concepts, practices and synthesis of key references
The Social Policy in Comparative Context: Basic Philosophy, eligibility, resources allocation; the key controversies, social expectations and implementation difficulties; wider social implications such as human development, equality, poverty, inclusion and justice. Special emphasis will be placed in the Greater China areas and some selected Asian cities.	*CILO$_{1,2}$*	• Seminars: students present the chosen topics;
Service agencies and their social services: Micro and macro historical accounts of social services; ideas and types of social services; service agencies (such as NGOs), organizational cultures, and modes of delivery; common	*CILO$_{1-3}$*	• Presentations: comparing and contrasting different policy approaches in promoting more socially cohesive and politically stable

problems and difficulties faced by service agencies; future trends and developments.		society
Thematic study of selected areas of social policy: Housing/ Social Welfare/ Elderly/ Education/ Ethnic Minorities/ Health/ Youth.	$CILO_{3,4}$	• Web and library search. • Reading lecture notes and key references

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
(a) Seminar presentation and discussion Students are required to work as a team and make a presentation; prepare questions and ideas for discussion; and facilitate active participation among other members of the class.	20%	$CILO_{1-4}$
(b) Mid-term/ Term-end Quiz Students will be examined for the taught contents in a 2-hour quiz.	40%	$CILO_{1-4}$
(c) Individual Essay at a length of 2,000 words Written presentation of information and arguments in relation to comparative social policies in a systematic and coherent manner.	40%	$CILO_{1-4}$

5. Use of Generative AI in Course Assessments
Please select one option only that applies to this course:

☐ *Not Permitted*: In this course, the use of generative AI tools is not allowed for any assessment tasks.

☑ *Permitted*: In this course, generative AI tools may be used in some or all assessment tasks. Instructors will provide specific instructions, including any restrictions or additional requirements (e.g., proper acknowledgment, reflective reports), during the first lesson and in relevant assessment briefs.

6. Required Text(s)
Nil

7. Recommended Readings
Chandra, Y., & Wong, L. (Eds.). (2016). *Social Entrepreneurship in the Greater China Region: Policy and Cases*. Routledge.
Chiu, S. & Lui, T. L. (2009). *Hong Kong: Becoming a Chinese global city*. London: Routledge.

He, J. (2014). The Doctor-Patient Relationship, Defensive Medicine and Overprescription in Chinese Public Hospitals: Evidence from a Cross-sectional Survey in Shenzhen City. *Social Science and Medicine*, 123, 64-71.

He, J. (2018). Maneuvering within a Fragmented Bureaucracy: Policy Entrepreneurship in China's Local Healthcare Reform. *China Quarterly*, 236, 1088-1110.

He, J. & Chou, K.L. (2019). Long-term Care Service Needs and Planning for the Future: A Study of Middle-aged and Older Adults in Hong Kong. *Ageing and Society*, 39(2), 221-251.

He, J., and Qian, J. (2013). Hospitals' Reponses to Administrative Cost-containment Policy in Urban China: The Case of Fujian Province. *The China Quarterly*, 216, 946-969.

Hu, F.Z.Y. and Chou, K.L. (2015). The Antipoverty Effect of Public Rental Housing in Hong Kong. *Habitat International*, 46, 206-213.

Lam, W. M., Lui, P. L. T., Wong, W. W. H., & Holliday, I. (2007). *Contemporary Hong Kong politics: Governance in the post-1997 era*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

Lee, S. & Yu, Y. (2012). Homeownership and Political Legitimacy: A Case Study of Hong Kong and Singapore. *Politics* 32(1), 52-64.

Lee, S. (2015). The Perception of Higher Education as a Public Good: The Case of Hong Kong, in C. Collins & D. Neubauer (eds.), *Redefining Asian Pacific Higher Education in Dynamic Global Contexts* (New York: Palgrave Pivot), 8-23.

Lee, S. (2016). Massification without Equalization: The Politics of Higher Education, Graduate Employment, and Social Mobility in Hong Kong. *Journal of Education and Work*, 29(1), 13-31.

Lee, S., Chou, K.L., Chan, W. & Kippersluis, H. (2018) Consumer Preferences and Demand for Annuities: Evidence from Hong Kong. *Journal of Aging & Social Policy*, DOI: 10.1080/08959420.2018.1542242

Li, H. (2006). Emergence of the Chinese middle class and its implications. *Asian Affairs, an American Review,* 33(2), 67-83.

Li, Q. & He, J. (2018). Popular Support for the Social Security System in Urban China: Evidence from a Cross-Sectional Survey in a Chinese City. *Journal of International and Comparative Social Policy.* DOI: 10.1080/21699763.2018.1544090

Liu, X.B. (2006). Reform in China: The role of civil society. *Social Research,* 73(1), 121-138.

Migdal, J. S. (2001). *State in society: Studying how states and societies transform and constitute one another*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Mok, K. H. & Forrest, R. (Eds.). (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*. New Jersey, NJ: World Scientific Press.

Ramesh, M., (2004), *Social policy in East and Southeast Asia: Education, health, housing, and income maintenance.* London and. New York: Routledge.

Tang, W. F. & Holzner, B. (Eds.). (2007). *Social change in contemporary China*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.

Tao, J., Cheung, A., Painter, M., & Li, C. Y. (Eds.). (2010). *Governance for harmony in Asia and beyond*. London: Routledge.

Vyas, L., Lee, S. & Chou, K.L. (2017). "Utilization of Family Friendly Policies in Hong Kong." *The International Journal of Human Resource Management*,28, 2893-2915.

Wang, Y. P., & Murie, A. (2011). The new affordable and social housing provision system in China: implications for comparative housing studies. *International Journal of*

Housing Policy, 11(3), 237-254.

Weller, R. P. (2005). *Civil life, globalization, and political change in Asia: Organizing between family and state*. London: Routledge.

Wu, A. M., and Chou, K.-L. (2017) Public Attitudes towards Income Redistribution: Evidence from Hong Kong. *Social Policy & Administration.* 51(5), 738–754.

Ye, L. & Wu, A.(2014). Urbanization, Land Development and Land Financing: Evidence from Chinese Cities. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 36(S1), 354-368.

Yin, J.D.C. & He, J. (2018). Health Insurance Reforms in Singapore and Hong Kong: How the Two Ageing Asian Tigers Respond to Health Financing Challenges?. *Health Policy*, 122(7), 693-697.

8. **Related Web Resources**
   - China Development Brief
     http://www.chinadevelopmentbrief.com/
   - Center for Civil Society and Local Governance, Beijing Normal University (北京師範大學, 公民社會與地方治理研究中心)
     http://www.ccslg.org/index.asp
   - Center for Civil Society Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
     http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/centre/ccss/index.html
   - Center for the Third Sector, National Chengchi University (政治大學第三部門研究中心)
     http://tw.funwish.net/nccu333/?p=47
   - NGO Research Center, Tsinghua University (清華大學, 清華 NGO 研究所)
     http://www.ngorc.org.cn/
   - One Country Two Systems Research Centre, Macao Polytechnic Institute
     http://www.ipm.edu.mo/ceupds/2systems_content10_3.html

9. **Related Journals**
   Journal of Asian Public Policy. Routledge.
   Journal of Contemporary China. Routledge.
   Modern China. Sage.
   The China Quarterly. Cambridge University Press.
   The China Review. Chinese University Press.
   The Pacific Review. Routledge.
   Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations. Springer.

10. **Academic Honesty**
    The University upholds the principles of honesty in all areas of academic work. We expect our students to carry out all academic activities honestly and in good faith. Please refer to the *Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity* (https://www.eduhk.hk/re/uploads/docs/0000000016336798924548BbN5). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

11. **Other**
    Newspaper articles, policy papers and video-clips on relevant issues.

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