

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	: Bachelor of Education (Honours); All undergraduate programmes
Programme QF Level	: 5
Course Title	: Introduction to Political Science
Course Code	: SSC1147
Department	: Social Sciences and Policy Studies
Credit Points	: 3
Contact Hours	: 39
Pre-requisite(s)	: Nil
Medium of Instruction	: EMI
Course Level	: 1

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"):

- 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 knowledge in political science in preparation for their study of more advanced courses. It offers an introduction to the key arguments in major political theories and ideologies, regime types, political parties and interest groups, political values and participation, governmental institutions, the policy process, and international relations in this globalized world. Through lecture, case study and group discussion, students are expected to gain a critical understanding of the major issues and topics in the field of political science.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILO_s)

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

- CILO₁ examine critically the basic features and theories of political science.
- CILO₂ understand the nature and functioning of political system of different forms.
- CILO₃ apply political concepts and theories to understand real-world political issues in both local and international contexts.
- CILO₄ 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 ₁	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Textual inquiryGroup discussion
Political ideologies: liberalism, conservatism, socialism communism and critical perspectives like green thoughts and feminism	CILO ₁	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Textual inquiryGroup discussion
Political institutions and process in democratic contexts; electoral system and political parties	CILO ₂	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Textual inquiryGroup discussion
Alternative political systems: authoritarianism and totalitarianism	CILO ₂	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Textual inquiryGroup discussion
Political participation, civil society, mass media and the internet	CILO _{1, 2}	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Textual inquiryGroup discussionCase studiesdiscussion of local and international contexts
Public policy making theories and models	CILO _{1, 3}	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Textual inquiryCase studies of different policy domains and national contexts
Political economy: economic development and welfare politics	CILO _{3, 4}	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Textual inquiryGroup discussion
Globalization and international relations: major theoretical outlooks of global order	CILO _{3, 4}	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Textual inquiryGroup discussion

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
Class participation and presentation	25 %	CILO _{1,2,3,4}
Final examination	35 %	CILO _{1,2,3,4}
Two short papers	40 %	CILO _{1,2,3,4}

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 Texts

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

7. Recommended Readings

Baylis, John et al., eds. 2019. *The Globalization of World Politics*. 8th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hague, Rod, Martin Harrop and John McCormick. 2019. *Comparative Government and Politics: An Introduction*. London: Red Globe Press.

Heywood, Andrew. 2015. *Key Concepts in Politics and International Relations (2nd Edition)*. London: Palgrave.

Kurian, George Thomas, ed. 2011. *The Encyclopedia of Political Science*. Washington: CQ Press.

Lui, Tai-Lok, Stephen W.K. Chiu & Ray Yep, ed. 2018. *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Hong Kong*. London: Routledge.

Peters, Guy. 2010. *The Politics of Bureaucracy*. 6th ed. N.Y.: Routledge.

Peters, Guy. 2015. *Advanced Introduction to Public Policy*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar.

Woll, Jonathan. 2016. *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

8. Related Web Resources

Asian Development Bank (<https://www.adb.org/>)

Brookings Institution (<https://www.brookings.edu/>)

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (<https://carnegieendowment.org/>)

Chatham House, UK (<https://www.chathamhouse.org/>)

CSIS, Georgetown University (<https://www.csis.org>)

Council of Foreign Relations (<https://www.cfr.org/>)

European Council of Foreign Relations (<https://www.ecfr.eu/>)

McKinsey & Company (<https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights>)

OECD (<https://www.oecd.org/>)

OECD Governance (<http://www.oecd.org/governance/>)

UNDP (<https://www.undp.org/>)

World Bank Development Indicators
(<https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators>)

World Bank Governance Indicators (<https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/>)

9. Related Journals

Asian Survey
China Journal
China Quarterly
China Review
Chinese Journal of International Politics
Chinese Leadership Monitor
Chinese Public Administration Review
Comparative Politics
Comparative Political Studies
European Journal of Political Research
Foreign Affairs
Foreign Policy
Global Policy
Governance
International Relations of the Asia-Pacific
Journal of Contemporary Asia
Journal of Contemporary China
Journal of East Asian Studies
Journal of International Affairs
Journal of Public Policy
International Affairs
International Organization
International Security
Millennium: Journal of International Studies
Pacific Affairs
Pacific Review
Public Administration
Public Administration Review
Third World Quarterly
SAIS Review
The Washington Quarterly
World Development
World Politics

July 2025

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/000000000016336798924548BbN5>). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

11. Others

China Daily

The Economist

Financial Times

Global Times

New York Times

South China Morning Post

Wall Street Journal

Dec 2021