THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

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Course Outline

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Part I

Programme Title	: Master of Public Policy and Management
Programme QF Level	: 6
Course Title	: Social Policy and Aging
Course Code	: PPG6010
Department/Unit	: Department of Social Sciences and Policy Studies
Credit Points	: 3
Contact Hours	: 39
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 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

Societies are aging rapidly and policymakers are scrambling to prepare for it. This course is intended to enhance understanding of the contexts, processes and contents of public policy towards aging in Asia. The course will investigate the aging phenomenon, analyse its impact on governments and societies, assess past and current policy responses to it, and consider options for improvements in policy responses. It will emphasize critical issues such as income maintenance, health care, housing, and long term care for the aged. The goal of the course will be to encourage students to think critically and creatively about the challenges and opportunities of aging society.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

$CILO_1$	:	Demonstrate critical understanding of the social, political, and economic contexts of aging.
$CILO_2$	:	Describe and understand the aging phenomenon and implications for government and society.
$CILO_3$	:	Develop ability to assess the strengths, weaknesses, and trade-offs inherent in the programmes for the aged.
$CILO_4$	:	Encourage students to propose creative responses to the opportunities and challenges posed by aging.

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Examination of the social, political, and economic contexts of aging.	$CILO_1$	➢ Lectures: Presentation and discussion of the frameworks, concepts, practices and synthesis of key references.
Discussion of the demographic trends in general and aging trends in particular.	$CILO_{1-2}$	➢ Seminars: Students present case relevant to current communication management issues, topics and scenarios.
Discussion of government and non-government programmes for the aged.	$CILO_3$	➢ Presentations: Comparing and contrasting different policy approaches in promoting more socially cohesive and politically stable society.
Exploration of responses to aging challenges.	$CILO_{1-4}$	➢ Web and library search. ➢ Reading lecture notes and key references.

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
(a) Group Presentation Students will select a topic for tutorial	10%	$CILO_{1-4}$

presentation through analysis of theory and research data and prepare questions for discussion, while encouraging active participation among other members of the tutorial group.		
(b) Group Paper (around 2,000 English words) Students are expected to submit a short essay to review relevant concepts and theory of aging and issues and needs confronted by the elderly in society.	30%	*CILO₁₋₄*
(c) Individual Paper (around 3,000 English words) Students submit their final term paper based on their tutorial presentation with further fine tuning after receiving questions and comments from group members and tutor.	60%	*CILO₁₋₄*

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)
Abhijit Banerjee and Esther DufloPo (2012). *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*

ADB. (September 2016). Strengthening Elderly Care Capacity in Asia and the Pacific, ADB Social Protection Brief, No. 66.

Andrew D. Mason Sudhir Shetty (2019).A Resurgent East Asia, Navigating a Changing World. World Bank.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) (2013). The Social Protection Index: Assessing Results for Asia and the Pacific

Bonoli,G. and Natali, D. (2012). The Politics of the New Welfare State, Oxford University Press.

Boston, J. and Andrew Bradstock (2010）*Public Policy: Why ethics matters*. Public Policy: Why ethics matters (anu.edu.au)

Castles, F., Leibfried, S., Lewis, J., and Obinger, H. (2010). The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State. Oxford University Press.

Colombo, F., Llena-Nozal, A., Mercier, J., and Tjadens, F. (2011). *Help Wanted? Providing and Paying for Long-term Care.*

Counsel and Care (2011). Community Care: understanding the system in England. 1522.pdf (firststopcareadvice.org.uk)

Deusdad, B., Pace, C., and Anttonen, A. (2016). Facing the challenges in the development of long-term care for older people in Europe in the context of an economic crisis, *Journal of Social Service Research*, vol, 42, o. 2: 144-150.

European Parliament (December 2020). Japan's ageing society.

European Semester Thematic Factsheet, Active Labour Market Policies

Farnsworth, K. and Irving, Z. (eds.) (2015). Social Policy in Times of Austerity. Bristol: Policy Press.

Glinskaya, Elena E.; Feng, Zhanlian (2018). Options for Aged Care in China : Building an Efficient and Sustainable Aged Care System http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/171061542660777579/pdf/132213-PUB-PUBLIC-PUBATE-11-19-18.pdf

HKSAR Government (2021). 2021-22 Total Government revenue and expenditure

Holzman (2008). *Pension Systems and Reform Conceptual Framework.* http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SOCIALPROTECTION/Resources/SP-Discussion-papers/Pensions-DP/0824.pdf

Holzmann, R. et al. (2012). Nonfinancial defined contribution pension schemes in a changing pension world. The World Bank

J. Midgley (2008). The Handbook of Social Policy.

J. Midgley, et al. (eds). (2017). *Social Investment and Social Welfare, International and Critical Perspectives*

Legislative Council, Research Office, Legislative Council Secretariat (April, 2021). The 2021-2022 Budget, Research Brief.
➢ (15 March 2019). Fiscal sustainability of social welfare spending in selected places, IN08/18-19.
➢ (July 2018). Health insurance for individuals in Hong Kong
➢ (4 May 2020). Social security schemes for the elderly, ISSH25/19-20

Yeh, C. H. Cheng, and S. Shi (25 September 2018). Public－private pension mixes in East Asia: institutional diversity and policy implications for old-age security，Aging and Society. Published online by Cambridge University Press:

Asian Development Bank (2021). Financing long-term care in Asia and the Pacific, ADB Brief.

Leung, J. (2015). China's Social Welfare, the Third Turning Point, chapter 1 and 2 (Polity Press).

Leung, J. (24 June, 2021). China's three-child policy: too little, too late? Asia Global Online. China's Three-Child Policy: Too Little, Too Late? | (hku.hk)

Lever, A. and A. Poama (2019). The Routledge Handbook of Ethics and Public Policy.

Lorenzoni, L. et al. (2015). Public expenditure projections for health and long-term care for China until 2030. OECD Health Working Paper No. 84.

Love, P. (ed.) (2015). Ageing, Debate the Issues. OECD

Maurizio Bussolo, Johannes Koettl, and Emily Sinnott (2015). Golden Aging: Prospects for Healthy, Active and Prosperous Aging in Europe and Central Asia. The World Bank

OECD (2005) Long-term Care for Older People.

OECD (2013). A good Life in Old Age? Monitoring and Improving Quality in Long-term Care.

OECD (2015). Ageing in Cities.

OECD (2021). Pensions at a Glance 2020. Paris: OECD.

OECD (2021). Pensions Outlook 2020. Paris: OECD.

OECD (2018). Pensions at a Glance Asia/Pacific 2018.

OECD/European Commission (2013), A Good Life in Old Age? Monitoring and Improving Quality in Long-term Care, OECD Publishing, Paris, http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264194564-en

Wiles, J. et al. (2011). The Meaning of "Aging in Place" to Older People, The Gerontologist, Vol. 52, No. 3, 357–366.

Robin, M. (2008). *Community Care: Policy and Practice*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Stone, R. (2011). *Long-term care for the elderly*. The Urban Institute.

Sandel Michael J. 2009. Justice: *What's the Right Thing to Do?*.

Sanglipong Lemtur (Feb., 2018). Challenges for elderly care in China: A Review of Literature. Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi.

https://www.icsin.org/uploads/2018/02/06/95fb8899e2c896effa47a88c0c42c572.pdf

The World Bank (2008). *The World Bank Pension Conceptual Framework*, http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPENSIONS/Resources/395443-1121194657824/PRPNoteConcept_Sept2008.pdf

UNFPA (2016). Disparities among Older Persons in China http://cn.un.org.cn/uploads/20180403/20945e032df92e65a5c0d0c2f59cfcd4.pdf

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2019). World Population Ageing 2019. Highlights

Walker, A. (2017). Why the UK needs a social policy on ageing, Journal of Social Policy, 47(2): 1-21

Walker, A. and C. Aspalter (2017). Active ageing in Asia (Routledge), chapter 1, 2, and 3; Chapter 6: J. Leung, Active ageing in Hong Kong; Chapter 7: V. Lou, Active ageing in Mainland China

World Health Organisation (2002). Active Ageing, a policy framework. WHO.

WHO (2007). Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide

WHO (5 May 2020). Decade of Healthy Ageing The Global strategy and action plan on ageing and health 2016–2020: towards a world in which everyone can live a long and healthy life

WHO (2021). *Global Report on Ageism*. Global report on ageism (who.int)

World Bank (2013). *China's pension system: a vision*

World Bank (2016). *Deepening Health Reform In China Building High-Quality And Value-Based Service Delivery*

World Bank (2018). *The state of social safety nets*.

World Bank (2018). *Measuring the Effectiveness of Social Protection*

7. **Recommended Readings**
   Nil

8. **Related Web Resources**
   Nil

9. **Related Journals**
   Nil

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

List of Useful Resources

- Andrew D. Mason Sudhir Shetty (2019). A Resurgent East Asia, Navigating a Changing World. World Bank.
- Carrillo, B., J. Hood and P. Kadetz (eds). (2017) *Handbook of Welfare in China*. Edward Elgar
- Gao, Q., S. Yang, and F. Zhai (2019). Social policy and income inequality during the Hu-Wen Era: a progressive legacy? *The China Quarterly*, 237, March: 82-107.
- http://cn.un.org.cn/uploads/20180403/20945e032df92e65a5c0d0c2f59cfcd4.pdf
- J. Leung and Y. B. Xu (2015). *China's Social Welfare: The Third Turning Point*. Polity Press.
- Ringen, S. and K. Ngok (2013). What kind of welfare state is emerging in China? UNRISD working paper 2013-2.
- UNFPA (2016). Disparities among Older Persons in China
- World Bank (2018). *Riding the Wave: An East Asian Miracle for the 21st Century*.
- World Bank (2013). China 2030: *Building a Modern, Harmonious, and Creative Society*.
- World Bank (2016). Deepening Health Reform In China Building High-Quality And Value-Based Service Delivery
- World Bank (2013). China's pension system : a vision
- Zhao, L. T. (2017). *China's Development: Social Investment and Challenges*. World Scientific.

** *You can always carry out GOOGLE search on key concepts, terms and country conditions for further information. For international reports from World Bank, OECD, and WHO, it would be sufficient to read the Executive Summary only.*

Updated as of 16 July 2025