THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

<div style="border:1px solid">

Course Outline

</div>

Part I

Programme Title	: Master of Public Policy and Management
Programme QF Level	: 6
Course Title	: Comparative Social Policy in Asia
Course Code	: PPG6026
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**
   This course teaches social policy concepts and theories. It examines critically major social policy challenges confronting societies in Asia. A key feature of this course is social policy issues are addressed through case examples and accompanied by concrete analyses based on policy practices of societies in the region. Adopting a comparative approach in analyzing policy formation and implementation, this course will enable students to understand the most recent developments related to poverty alleviation, health, social security, and housing policies in Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, China, Singapore, and so forth. Students will engage in comparing and contrasting major social policy issues with the purpose of understanding their underlying dynamics and devising appropriate responses.

2. **Course Intended Learning Outcomes** (CILO$_s$)
   Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

CILO$_1$	:	Understand the different development experiences that societies have confronted in Asia.
CILO$_2$	:	Analyse the impacts of globalization on social, economic and political developments of societies in this region.
CILO$_3$	:	Examine how the diverse governments and social actors play out their interactions around policy arenas addressing the growing complexity of policy issues and discussing the changing state-market-civil society relations in Asia.
CILO$_4$	:	Compare and contrast policy strategies adopted by major governments in the region in promoting a more socially cohesive and politically stable environments.

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

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Understand different development experiences that societies have confronted in Asia.	*CILO$_{1-2}$*	➢ Lectures: Presentation and discussion of the frameworks, concepts, practices and synthesis of key references. ➢ Seminars: Students present the chosen topics. ➢ Presentations: Comparing and contrasting different policy approaches in promoting more socially cohesive and politically stable society. ➢ Web and library search. ➢ Reading lecture notes and key references.
Examine impacts of globalization on social, economic and political developments in region, critically examining how government-civil society interacts in managing pressing social policy issues.	*CILO$_{1-3}$*	
Examine how the diverse	*CILO$_{1-4}$*	

governments and social actors play out their interactions around policy arenas addressing the growing complexity of policy issues and discussing the changing state-market-civil society relations in the region. Compare and contrast policy strategies adopted by major governments in the region in creating a more socially cohesive and politically stable environment.		

4. **Assessment**

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
(a) Group Project Students are required to work in small groups to compare a very specific social policy issue in Asia, with first-hand or secondary data and submit a group report of around 3,000 words.	30%	$CILO_{1-4}$
(b) Class Discussion and Participation Students are expected to read relevant readings before s/he attends the seminars and must participate actively in the discussion.	20%	$CILO_{1-4}$
(c) Final Exam Consisting of a series of short-answer questions, the exam will be based exclusively on the required reading undertaken for the course.	50%	$CILO_{1-4}$

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)

Ramesh, M. (2004). *Social Policy in East and Southeast Asia: Education, Health, Housing and Income Maintenance*. London: Routledge

7. Recommended Readings

Chan, C. K., Ngok, K. L., & Phillips, D. (Eds.). (2008). *Social policy in China: Development and well-being*. Bristol: Policy Press.

Chan, K. M., Qiu, H. X., & Zhu, J. G. (2005). Chinese NGOs strive to survive. *Social transformation in Chinese societies, 1,* 131-159.

Chiu, S., & Lui, T. L. (2009). *Hong Kong: Becoming a Chinese global city*. London: Routledge.

Gu, X. (2008). *The development of social security net in China*. Hangzhou: Zhejiang University Press.

Howell, J. (Ed.). (2004). *Governance in China*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

Huang, X. Y., et al. (Eds.). (2010). *Annual report on Chinese civil organizations (2009-2010)*. Beijing: Social Sciences Academic Press.

Lam, W. M. (2010). Promoting hybridity: The politics of the new Macao identity. *The China Quarterly* (forthcoming).

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.

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.

Perry, E. J., & Selden, M. (2010). *Chinese societies: Change, conflict and resistance* (3rd ed.). London: Routledge.

Powell, W. W., & Steinberg, R. (2006). *The nonprofit sector: A research handbook* (2nd ed.). New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

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.

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

8. Related Web Resources

Name of the Web Page	Web Link
China Development Brief	http://www.chinadevelopmentbrief.com/
ILO Research	https://www.ilo.org/global/research/lang--en/index.htm
East Asian Social Policy Network	http://www.welfareasia.org
The World Bank in Social Protection	https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/socialprotection
World Values Survey	https://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/wvs.jsp

9. Related Journals

Journal	Publisher
Journal of Asian Public Policy	Routledge
Journal of Contemporary China	Routledge
Social Policy and Administration	Wiley
The China Quarterly	Cambridge University Press
Journal of Social Policy	Cambridge University Press

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

Updated as of 10 November 2025