THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title : Master of Public Policy and Management
Programme QF Level : 6
Course Title : Managing Public Finance
Course Code : PPG6004
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 investigates the fiscal role of government in the modern context. It engages students in the analysis and critique of the fundamental issues of public finance and budgeting. Drawing on the cases of Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong, China, other countries such as the USA, the course covers the topics ranging from fundamental principles of public finance, the role of government, budget process and procedures, revenue generation, intergovernmental fiscal relations to education finance and income distribution. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to compare and critically understand public finance and budgeting in various contexts.

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

   CILO$_1$: Critically understand the fundamental issues of public finance and budgeting and how public finance and budgeting fit into the macroeconomic environment.
   CILO$_2$: Examine the nature of the budget process and procedures and the politics of public budgeting in the real world.
   CILO$_3$: Critically analyse government budgets in different contexts.
   CILO$_4$: Investigate the importance of redistributive policy.

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

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Why government budgeting is crucial and why government intervention is needed.	*CILO$_{1\text{-}4}$*	➢ Lectures: Presentation and discussion of the concepts, practices and synthesis of key references. ➢ Seminars: Students present cases relevant to public finance and budgeting in the real world. ➢ Web and library search. ➢ Reading lecture notes and key references.
How to critically review financial information: budgeting principles and financial statements.	*CILO$_{1\text{-}3}$*	
How to provide sound financial management in the modern context.	*CILO$_{1\text{-}3}$*	
How to make redistributive policy in various contexts.	*CILO$_{1,4}$*	

4. **Assessment**

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
(a) **Class Discussion and Participation** Students are expected to read relevant readings before s/he attends the seminars and must participate actively in the discussion (in-class and online). Students' engagement and participation are evaluated accordingly.	20%	*CILO$_{1\text{-}4}$*

(b) Group Presentation (20%) and Group Paper (20%) The class will be separated into several groups. Students are expected to critically review the budget of a governmental department, a public body or a government. After the oral presentation, students are expected to submit a group paper (each student contributing about 2,000 words) to report the entire learning experience in the group project. Group presentations and group papers will each account for 20% of the assessment.	40%	*CILO$_{1-3}$*
(c) Final exam Students are expected to write about 1,000 words in the final exam.	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)

N.A.

7. Recommended Readings

Finkler, S. A., Smith, D. L., & Calabrese, T. D. (2020). *Financial management for public, health, and not-for-profit organizations*. CQ Press.

Fisher, R. C. (2022). *State and local public finance*. Routledge.

Gallagher, T. J. (2022). *Financial management: principles and practice*. Sage Publications.

Gruber, J. (2013). *Public finance and public policy*. New York, NY: Worth Publishers, 2005.

Ho, A. T. K., de Jong, M., & Zhao, Z. (2019). *Performance budgeting reform: theories and international practices*. Routledge.

Lou, J., & Wang, S. (2008). Pu*blic finance in China: Reform and growth for a harmonious society*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

Maher, C. S., Park, S., McDonald III, B. D., & Deller, S. C. (2023). *Understanding municipal fiscal health: A model for local governments in the USA*. Routledge.
Mikesell, John L. *Fiscal Administration: Analysis and applications for the public sector*. Boston: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, 2014.

McGee, R. W. (ed.). (2010). *Taxation and public finance in transition and developing economies*. New York, NY: Springer.

Rosen, H. S., & Gayer, T.. (2014). *Public finance*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education.

Scott, I. (2010). *The public sector in Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

Tresch, R. W. (2015). *Public finance: A normative theory* (3rd ed.). London: Academic Press.

8. Related Web Resources

- Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, HKSAR (https://www.fstb.gov.hk/en/)
- Ministry of Finance of the PRC (http://www.mof.gov.cn)
- Public Finance, World Bank (http://www.worldbank.org)
- The International Consortium on Government Financial Management (http://www.icgfm.org)

9. Related Journals

Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory
National Tax Journal
Public Budgeting and Finance
Public Money and Management
Journal of Public Economies

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

Nil

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