REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (GOVERNMENT AND LAWS)
[BSocSc(Govt&Laws)]

These regulations apply to students admitted to the BSocSc(Govt&Laws) 4-year '2012 curriculum' in the academic year 2025-2026 and thereafter.

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for First Degree Curricula)

Definitions

SSGL1[1] In these Regulations, and in the Syllabuses for the degree of BSocSc(Govt&Laws), unless the context otherwise requires:
'Core departments' means the Departments of Geography, Politics and Public Administration, Psychology, Social Work and Social Administration, and Sociology.
'Course' means a course of study, with a credit value expressed as a number of credit-units as specified in the syllabus.
'Credits' means the value assigned to each course to indicate its study load relative to the total study load under a degree curriculum. The study load refers to the hours of student learning activities and experiences, both within and outside the classrooms, and includes contact hours and time spent on assessment tasks and examinations.
'Pre-requisite' means a course or a group of courses which candidates must have completed successfully or a requirement which candidates must have fulfilled before being permitted to take the course in question.

Admission to the degree

SSGL2 To be eligible for admission to the degree of Bachelor of Social Sciences (Government and Laws), candidates shall
(a) comply with the General Regulations;
(b) comply with the Regulations for First Degree Curricula; and
(c) complete the curriculum in accordance with the regulations that follow.

Period of study

SSGL3 The curriculum shall normally require eight semesters of full-time study, extending over not fewer than four academic years, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester. Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of six academic years.

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[1] This regulation should be read in conjunction with UG1 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

Completion of the curriculum

SSGL4

(a) Candidates shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula[2].

(b) Candidates shall complete not fewer than 240 credits of courses, unless otherwise required or permitted under the Regulations.

(c) Candidates shall complete the required number of compulsory and elective courses as prescribed in the syllabuses, including 96 credits of courses for PPA major, 72 credits of Law courses for Legal Studies major[3], and 24 credits of free electives.

(d) Candidates shall normally be required to take not fewer than 24 credits nor more than 30 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester) unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of Studies for the Bachelor of Social Sciences (Government and Laws) and the Bachelor of Laws, or except in the final semester of study when the number of outstanding credits required to complete the curriculum requirements may be fewer than 24 credits.

(e) Candidates may, of their own volition, take additional credits not exceeding 6 credits in each semester, and/or further credits during the summer semester, accumulating up to a maximum of 72 credits in one academic year. With the special permission of the Board of Studies, candidates may exceed the annual study load of 72 credits in a given academic year provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 288 credits for the normative period of study specified in SSGL3, save as provided for under SSGL4(f).

(f) Where candidates are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of Studies may give permission for candidates to exceed the annual study load of 72 credits provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 432 credits for the maximum period of registration specified in SSGL3.

(g) Candidates shall normally enrol in not more than 114 credits of introductory courses.

(h) Candidates shall not enrol in any introductory courses in the final year of study (except Common Core courses and Chinese Language Enhancement course).

Selection of courses

SSGL5 Candidates who wish to change their selection of courses at the beginning of each semester may do so up to 2 weeks after the commencement of the semester. Requests for changes after the designated add/drop period of the semester shall not normally be considered, except for medical or other reasons accepted by the Board of Studies. Candidates' withdrawal from any course without permission will result in a fail grade.

Assessment

SSGL6 Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.

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[2] Specific requirements are spelt out in the syllabuses.

[3] The major in legal studies by itself will not constitute any qualification eligible for admission to the PCLL.

Grades shall be awarded in accordance with UG8(a) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula. Candidates suspended under Statute XXXI shall not be allowed to take, present themselves for, and participate in any assessments during the period of suspension, unless otherwise permitted by the Senate.

SSGL7 Candidates are required to make up for failed courses in the following manner as prescribed in the curriculum regulations:

(a) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
(b) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
(c) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
(d) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

SSGL8 Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade or above for the purpose of upgrading.

SSGL9 Candidates are permitted or required to present themselves for re-assessment/ re-examination / assessment in an alternative course under SSGL7 above. The new grade obtained together with the previous F grade shall be recorded on the transcript and be included in the calculation of the Semester GPA, Year GPA, Cumulative GPA and Graduation GPA and shall be taken into account for the purposes of determining eligibility for award of the BSocSc(Govt&Laws) degree, honours classification and whether a candidate is recommended for discontinuation of studies in the Faculty.

SSGL10 There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

Discontinuation of studies

SSGL11 Unless otherwise permitted by the Board of Studies, candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they have:

(a) failed to complete 36 or more credits in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters; or
(b) failed to achieve an average Semester GPA of 1.0 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester) ; or
(c) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in SSGL3.

Absence from examination

SSGL12 Candidates who are unable, because of illness, to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the first semester of the following academic year. Any such application shall normally be made on the form prescribed within seven calendar

days of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provisions made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

Advanced standing

SSGL13 Advanced standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully before admission to the University in accordance with UG 2 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula. Credits granted for advanced standing will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate but will not be included in the calculation of the Semester GPA, Year GPA, Cumulative GPA or Graduation GPA. Nor will they be taken into consideration for the honours classification of the BSocSc(Govt&Laws).

Credit transfer

SSGL14 Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of Studies, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions at any time during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The number of credits to be transferred shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the degree curricula of the candidates during their candidature at the University, and a minimum of two semesters of study at this University shall be required before a candidate is considered for the award of BSocSc(Govt&Laws) degree.

Award of the degree

SSGL15 To be eligible for award of the degree of BSocSc (Govt&Laws), candidates shall have:

(a) successfully completed the curriculum as stipulated under Regulations SSGL4;
(b) achieved a Graduation GPA of 1.00 or above;
(c) satisfactorily completed a minimum of 240 credits; and
(d) satisfied the requirements in UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

Honours classification

SSGL16

(a) The degree of BSocSc(Govt&Laws) shall be awarded in five divisions: First Class Honours, Second Class Honours Division One, Second Class Honours Division Two, Third Class Honours, and Pass.

(b) The classification of honours shall be determined by the Board of Examiners for the degree in accordance with the following Graduation GPA scores (GGPA), with all courses taken (including failed courses) carrying weightings which are proportionate to their credit values[4]:

[4] For students in the 2025-26 intake and thereafter who have successfully completed six 6-credit Common Core courses, the calculation of Graduation GPA is subject to the proviso that either five 6-

Class of honours	*GGPA range*
First Class Honours	3.60 – 4.30
Second Class Honours	(2.40 – 3.59)
Division One	3.00 – 3.59
Division Two	2.40 – 2.99
Third Class Honours	1.70 – 2.39
Pass	1.00 – 1.69

(c) Honours classification may not be determined solely on the basis of a candidate's Graduation GPA and the Boards of Examiners for the degrees may, at its absolute discretion and with justification, award a higher class of honours to a candidate deemed to have demonstrated meritorious academic achievement but whose Graduation GPA falls below the range stipulated in SSGL16(b) of the higher classification by not more than 0.1 Grade Point.

(d) A list of candidates who have successfully completed all the requirements of the degrees shall be posted on Faculty notice boards.

credit Common Core courses with the highest grades (covering all five Areas of Inquiry), or all six 6-credit courses will be counted towards Graduation GPA, depending on which generates the higher Graduation GPA. For students who have successfully completed two 3-credit Common Core Microcredentials in place of one 6-credit Common Core course, the average grade point of the two 3-credit courses will be treated as the grade point of one 6-credit Common Core course.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (GOVERNMENT & LAWS)

These syllabuses apply to students admitted to the BSocSc(Govt&Laws) 4-year '2012 curriculum' in the academic year 2025-2026 and thereafter.

GENERAL FEATURES

I. OBJECTIVES

This Bachelor of Social Sciences (Government and Laws) curriculum aims to

- provide students with a solid understanding of the key concepts in political science, political theory, public administration, international relations, legal analysis, legal theory, legal systems, and international law;
- develop students' skills in effective social scientific and legal research as applied to the study of public affairs and legal issues among different political, social, and cultural environments across nations;
- enable students to acquire a solid understanding of the body of legal knowledge and the capacity to critically analyse and evaluate legal principles at a level required to meet the standards and expectations of the legal profession and the community-at-large;
- develop students' awareness of social issues and conditions, and enable students to utilise knowledge derived from political and legal studies and rhetorical advocacy techniques for the betterment of society; and
- develop students' skills and appreciation for teamwork through participating in group activities and internships.

II. CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

The regulations specify the requirements with which candidates have to comply for completion of the BSocSc(Govt&Laws) degree curriculum. Further details of the requirements are given in the syllabuses.

Candidates shall complete not fewer than 240 credits including 96 credits of courses for PPA major, 72 credits of courses for Legal Studies major[5] and 24 credits of free electives within the same or another curriculum. They shall enrol in not fewer than 24 and not more than 30 credits of courses for each semester other than the final semester as specified in SSGL4.

A. University Requirements (Regulation UG 5)

Candidates are required to complete successfully the courses as prescribed in Regulation UG 5 "Requirements for Graduation" of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula. Candidates may enrol in additional courses and the maximum number of credits of introductory courses to be taken is 114.

1. Non-credit bearing course(s)

[5] The major in legal studies by itself will not constitute any qualification eligible for admission to the PCLL.

Candidates are required to successfully complete a non-credit bearing course in national education and national security education, and any other non-credit bearing course(s) as may be required from time to time. –

2. Introductory courses

a) Language enhancement courses:

CAES1001. Academic Communication in English –

[Students who have achieved Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, or equivalent, are exempted from taking this non-credit bearing course.]

CDDL9001.	Practical Chinese for Double Degree Law Students	(6 credits)
OR		
CUND9001.	Basic Spoken and Written Cantonese for Mandarin Speakers (for Putonghua-speaking students)	(6 credits)
OR		
CUND9002.	Practical Chinese and Hong Kong Society (for Putonghua-speaking students)	(6 credits)
OR		
CUND9003.	Cantonese for non-Cantonese Speaking Students (for Putonghua-speaking students)	(6 credits)
OR		
CUND9004.	Practical Applied Chinese Writing and Effective Presentation Skills for Non-local Mandarin Speaking Students (for Putonghua-speaking students)	(6 credits)

Candidates who did not study the Chinese language during their secondary education and have not reached the required proficiency level for the Chinese language enhancement course specified for the degree curriculum may take **one** of the following courses in either Chinese language or Chinese culture in lieu:

CHIN9501.	Chinese as a Foreign Language I	(6 credits)
CHIN9502.	Chinese as a Foreign Language II	(6 credits)
CHIN9503.	Chinese as a Foreign Language III	(6 credits)
CHIN9504.	Chinese as a Foreign Language IV	(6 credits)
CHIN9505.	Chinese as a Foreign Language V	(6 credits)
CHIN9506.	Chinese as a Foreign Language VI	(6 credits)
CHIN9507.	Chinese as a Foreign Language VII	(6 credits)
CHIN9508.	Chinese as a foreign language VIII	(6 credits)
CHIN9511.	Cantonese as a Foreign Language I	(6 credits)
CHIN9512.	Cantonese as a Foreign Language II	(6 credits)
CHIN9513.	Cantonese as a Foreign Language III	(6 credits)
CHIN9521.	The Fundamentals of Chinese Characters	(6 credits)
CHIN9522.	Exploration of Major Cultural Themes across Chinese History	(6 credits)

b) Common Core courses:

Candidates are required to complete 36 credits in the Common Core Curriculum, comprising at least 6 credits and not more than 12 credits from each Area of Inquiry with not more than 24 credits being selected within one academic year except where candidates are required to make up for failed credits. (36 credits)

c) Artificial intelligence literacy courses:

Candidates are required to complete 6 credits of artificial intelligence literacy, comprising **two** 3-credit microcredential courses:

AILT1001. Artificial Intelligence Literacy I (3 credits)
AILT9017. Digital Literacy Through a Social Sciences Lens* (3 credits)

** Candidates may opt to take other AILT courses (Level 900) offered by other Faculties/Schools that are open to all undergraduate students.*

3. Advanced courses

Language enhancement courses:

English in the Discipline (6 credits)
[A pass in LLAW1016 Legal research and writing shall be deemed to satisfy the "English in the Discipline" requirement under UG5(a) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.]

B. Major in Politics and Public Administration

1. Introductory courses

a) The following from the Department of Politics and Public Administration:

POLI1003. Making sense of politics (6 credits)
(This course must be completed in semester I or II)

b) One course from the following core departments: (6 credits)

Faculty of Social Sciences
Geography
Psychology
Social Work and Social Administration
Sociology

2. Advanced courses

a) Courses offered by the Department of Politics and Public Administration

Candidates are required to complete not fewer than 72 credits of advanced courses. This includes the completion of the following compulsory courses:

- Methods requirement: POLI2104. Research methods in politics and public administration (preferably in semester III or IV). (6 credits)

- Gateway requirement: Two of the following courses: (12 credits)
  POLI2105. Introduction to comparative politics (6 credits)
  POLI2106. Introduction to international relations (6 credits)
  POLI2107. Introduction to political theory (6 credits)
  POLI2108. Introduction to public administration (6 credits)
  (students are strongly recommended to complete the relevant gateway course if they wish to concentrate in that specialist stream)

- Capstone requirement: (6-12 credits)
  One of the following courses from semesters VII to VIII:
  POLI4092. Capstone experience: Research internship in politics and public administration (6 credits)
  POLI4109. Capstone experience: Directed project in politics and public administration (6 credits)
  Or the following course in semesters V-VI or VII-VIII:
  POLI4046. Thesis in politics and public administration (12 credits)

Regarding 1.a) and 2.a) above, candidates should complete a minimum of 78 credits of courses.

Candidates may wish to concentrate in a specialist stream by completing 24 credits (out of the 72 credits) of advanced courses in a designated stream. For the specialist streams please refer to the Department's website. Neither the transcript nor the certificate will note this specialization. Students, if necessary, may approach the Department for a letter of reference for their specialization.

b) Faculty of Social Sciences experiential learning courses

Candidates are required to complete 12 credits of off-campus learning under the theme of Social Innovation OR Global Citizenship as a condition of graduation. The requirement can be fulfilled by completing either FOSS2018 or FOSS2019, or undertaking a combination of **two** 6-credit endorsed experiential learning courses, or 12 credits of exchange study, or overseas summer programme approved by the Faculty.

FOSS2018. Social Innovation internship (12 credits)
FOSS2019. Global Citizenship internship (12 credits)
FOSS2022. Global intensive learning programme (6 credits)
FOSS2023. Global Social Impact lab (6 credits)
FOSS2024. Experiential Learning I – Field Immersion (6 credits)
FOSS2025. Experiential Learning II - Advanced Praxis (6 credits)

FOSS2026. Global Experiential Learning I – Field Immersion (6 credits)
FOSS2027. Global Experiential Learning II – Advanced Praxis (6 credits)

C. Major in Legal Studies[6]

1. Introductory courses

First Year:
LLAW1001. Law of contract I (6 credits)
LLAW1002. Law of contract II (6 credits)
LLAW1008. The legal system of the Hong Kong SAR (6 credits)
LLAW1014. Criminal law I (6 credits)
LLAW1015. Criminal law II (6 credits)
LLAW1016. Legal research and writing (6 credits)

Second Year:
LLAW1005. Law of tort I (6 credits)
LLAW1006. Law of tort II (6 credits)

2. Advanced courses

Second Year:
LLAW2001. Constitutional law (6 credits)
LLAW3093. Administrative law (6 credits)

Third Year:
LLAW3203. Guided research* (Capstone experience) (6 credits)

Fourth Year:
LLAW3001. Introduction to legal theory (6 credits)
* or a Law Designated Research Course as approved by the Department of Law

D. Free Electives (24 credits)

24 credits of free elective courses offered within the same curriculum (both Law and PPA) or another curriculum offered by other faculties/departments/centers.

III. COURSE REGISTRATION

Course registration will take place before the commencement of each semester.
Candidates are advised to consult relevant teachers or Heads of Department on the suitable combinations of courses and to adhere closely to the normal study pattern. Less suitable combinations of courses may not be permitted because of timetabling difficulties. Courses listed in the syllabuses may not necessarily be offered every year; and depending on the exigencies of staffing, additional courses may be offered. Candidates may enrol in other courses

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offered under the BSocSc curriculum.
Candidates may change their course selection during the two-week add/drop period which is scheduled at the beginning of each semester. Withdrawal beyond the 2-week deadline will not be permitted, except for medical or other reasons acceptable to the Board of Studies. Candidates' withdrawing from any course without permission will result in a fail grade.
In course registration, candidates should pay special attention to the pre-requisite and co-requisite requirements of courses as specified in the syllabuses. A prerequisite is a course which candidates must complete successfully before being permitted to take a course in question. A co-requisite is a course which candidates must take at the same time as the course in question.

IV. COURSEWORK AND EXAMINATION RATIO

The final grading of each course will be determined by performance in the examination and an assessment of coursework in the ratios as specified.

INTRODUCTORY COURSES

Artificial Intelligence Literacy Courses

AILT9017. Digital Literacy Through a Social Sciences Lens (3 credits)

The advent of artificial intelligence (AI) inevitably brings anxiety or unease about potential negative impacts on our lives (e.g., displacement of workers, invasion of privacy, plagiarism normalized, and social isolation). How to be digitally literate to keep AI as our good servant instead of mastering over us? Additionally, since AI is planned to mimic human behaviours, what are the roles social sciences play in motivating the development of AI algorithms. In this course, we will search for answers within the realm of social sciences in a five-step friendly learning progression: (1) Anticipate, (2) Approach, (3) Appreciate, (4) Apply, and (5) Amplify. By studying use cases where AI algorithms are used to solve problems in social sciences, students can scrutinize the AI-suggested solutions, evaluate the effectiveness of the algorithms, and assess the impact these algorithms have on us.
Assessment: 100% coursework

Language Enhancement Courses

CAES1001. Academic Communication in English (non-credit bearing)

The course is designed to equip first-year undergraduate students with a solid foundation in academic English literacy to succeed in their university studies. The course is dedicated to nurturing students' competencies in an English-medium university environment and fostering their confidence in effective oral, written, and visual communication. This is achieved by cultivating students' critical reading skills, information literacy skills, and digital literacy skills for academic English learning. The course also provides students with a comprehensive understanding of academic rhetoric across different mediums, including written, spoken, and

visual tasks. By familiarizing students with the key genres and communication conventions in university education, the course empowers students to apply the acquired knowledge and skills to Common Core Courses.
Assessment: 100% coursework

CDDL9001. Practical Chinese for Double Degree Law Students (6 credits)

The course aims to introduce students to the features of Chinese under the HKSAR legal system and to the use of oral and written legal Chinese, in order to equip students with the basic knowledge and skills needed for the increasingly important legal practice in Chinese in the HKSAR. Specifically, students will learn about traditional and simplified Chinese characters, modern Chinese grammar and rhetoric (both generally and in the legal context), searching for and using legal resources in Chinese (both in print and online), and practical legal writing and oral presentation skills using Chinese.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

CUND9001. Basic Spoken and Written Cantonese for Mandarin Speakers *(for Putonghua-speaking students)* (6 credits)

This intensive Cantonese language course is designed for Mandarin (Putonghua) speakers who have no prior knowledge of Cantonese. The course aims to assist students in mastering Jyutping, the Cantonese romanization system, while simultaneously cultivating students' ability to communicate effectively in Cantonese, both orally and in written form, across a variety of situational conversations. Throughout the course, students will be exposed to practical sentence structures and a wide range of useful vocabulary related to various aspects of daily life. Furthermore, the curriculum allows students to gain insight into Hong Kong culture.
Assessment: 70% coursework, 30% examination.

CUND9002. Practical Chinese and Hong Kong Society *(for Putonghua-speaking students)* (6 credits)

This course is specifically designed for the students from the Mainland. With *Putonghua* as the medium of instruction, it aims to underscore the characteristic styles and formats of practical Chinese writings in the workplace context in Hong Kong. Topics addressing the rhetorical strategies for reader-oriented professional writings are included to strengthen the students' command of the language. In the “Chinese Characters” component, drilling practices provide ample opportunity for the students to learn to convert simplified characters into their traditional forms. The evolution of Cantonese and the lexical and phonetic systems of this dialect will be explored. The local history and culture of Hong Kong will also be considered. On-site visits are organized to deepen the students' understanding of local traditions and, more importantly, to enhance their ability to appreciate and accept cultural and regional differences.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

CUND9003. Cantonese for non-Cantonese Speaking Students *(for Putonghua-speaking students)* (6 credits)

Through a comparative analysis of Putonghua and Cantonese, this course enables students to learn the characteristics of Hong Kong Chinese, to discover the differences in vocabulary and expression between the Cantonese dialect and Mandarin, to strengthen their communication skills in everyday life, and to have a proper understanding of the culture, traditions and people in Hong Kong.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

CUND9004. Practical Applied Chinese Writing and Effective Presentation Skills for Non-local Mandarin Speaking Students *(for Putonghua-speaking students)* (6 credits)

This course aims to cultivate non-local Mandarin-speaking students' logical thinking and critical thinking skills. Through the exploration of various interdisciplinary knowledge topics, students are encouraged to analyze and evaluate information, such as a variety of the essays mainly focusing on the important social and economic issues, as well as the movies released between 1995 and the present. The students will also be provided with opportunities to engage in writing, group discussions and presentation, allowing them to practice their critical thinking skills and develop their ability to express their thoughts effectively using Mandarin. This course will construct a coherent, sustainable, and in-depth content to help students build strong arguments, enhance their lexical and syntactic knowledge, as well as enhance their ability to analyze information, construct well-reasoned arguments, and make informed decisions.
Assessment: 70% coursework, 30% examination.

Geography

GEOG1002. Hong Kong: Land, people and resources (6 credits)

This course provides students with a fundamental understanding of several key physical and human geography issues in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Lectures are organized around two major sets of topics, which pertain to, respectively, the physical and human dimensions of the city's rapidly changing landscape. An emphasis is placed on the longer-term policy implications of these concerns in lecture deliberations. This is an independent course which can be taken by students from various disciplines. This course is relevant to students with a general interest in Hong Kong and its immediate hinterland. It is of particular relevance to Social Sciences students as it provides them with a comprehensive command of some salient local geographical problems from a larger regional and policy perspective.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

GEOG1003. Contemporary global environmental issues (6 credits)

Recent decades have been characterized by increasing awareness of environmental issues and the need to come to terms with them. This course will examine, in turn, many of the current major environmental issues related to the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere as well as looking at major threats posed by the environment itself in the form of natural hazards. In addition, the issue of a potential nuclear threat and the ever-increasing demand for energy

are explored. Finally, the matter of sustainable development and intelligent management of the planet for present and future generations is addressed.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

GEOG1005. Map use, reading and interpretation (6 credits)

Maps have been used for centuries to describe spatial patterns and portray association and correlation. Recent developments in digital spatial data handling have changed the environment where maps are used. Maps are no longer confined to the printed format. The objective of this course is to provide an integrated discussion of standard planimetric maps, their uses, and the basic skills necessary to take full advantage of these maps. The lectures will cover fundamental concepts underlying different mapping/analytical techniques, their strengths, limitations, and application settings. The practicals will be devoted to imparting essential computer operating skills to visualize spatial data. Coursework assessment comprises one in-class quiz and five practical exercises. An examination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions will be administrated during the examination period.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

GEOG1012. Economic and social development in an urbanizing world (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the processes and spatial patterns of economic development and social changes in an increasingly urbanizing world. Important subjects to be discussed include the geographical dynamics of economic development, the trend of economic globalization versus local development, the location issue in various economic sectors, geopolitics and the new world order, as well as social and environmental concerns in the urbanization process. Emphasis will be placed on the geographical explanation of economic development and emerging urban issues in this rapidly changing world.
Assessment: 40% coursework, 60% examination.

GEOG1016. Nature conservation for sustainable societies (6 credits)

The consumption of the Earth's resources has reached an alarming level, bringing intensive and pervasive deleterious impacts. This course surveys the major issues related to human-nature interactions, their current status as well as the prognosis for the future. A synoptic view on the cultural roots of the exploitative utilization of our planet sets the backdrop for a systematic assessment of the diverse but interrelated components of the resource system. Major natural resources such as water, soil, forest and biodiversity are mainly discussed at the global scale in the light of their uses and misuses in different human societies, and the possibility for a more enlightened approach towards a more sustainable future. Adopting a non-technical approach, this course appeals to students with a background in humanities, social sciences or science disciplines.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

GEOG1017. Human geography in a globalizing world (6 credits)

This is an introductory course about the processes and spatial patterns of human population,

settlement and culture in a globalizing world. Important subjects to be discussed will include the main themes of human geography as a spatial science, geography of population and migration, technological innovation and cultural diffusion, the changing cultural landscape, human impacts on the natural environment and changing geography in major world regions. Emphasis will be placed on the interaction between human society and the natural environment.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

GEOG1020. Modern maps in the age of big data (6 credits)

Maps have been widely used in our everyday work-life activities while modern maps, such as photo-realistic streetscape maps available on the Internet and dynamic/interactive maps with changing 3D views, which are made possible with big data. i.e. extremely large datasets relating to human behavior and social interaction captured with modern positioning and affordable mobile devices, are making our daily lives more convenient and our work more efficient. This course introduces the main features of modern maps, the characteristics of big data, the opportunities and challenges, and the basic principles for producing and applying modern maps in the age of big data.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

GEOG1021. Geographic issues of Polar Regions (6 credits)

Polar Regions cover the Arctic and Antarctic areas of the Earth. These mysterious places were the focus of exploration and colonial contest in the early 20th Century. Today, Polar Regions are internationally co-administrated and where scientists of different countries are allowed to station and conduct research. The regions hold about 90% of the world's freshwater resources mainly in the forms of glaciers, icebergs and ice-caps. It is known that rising temperatures are the causes of changing global climates, oceanographic currents, biomes and carbon reserve. As human activities are increasingly affecting Polar Regions which are environmental sensitive and vulnerable, it is important to understand these interrelationships and what can be done to protect the tundra. The course provides fundamental knowledge and discusses the geographic significance and issues related to future management of the Polar Regions.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

GEOG1022. Global change and sustainable development (6 credits)

The course discusses the structure and function of the Earth system, including life and biodiversity, ecological environment, water resources, agriculture and land use, population, cities, energy, climate, economy, health, causes and impacts of natural disasters, etc. at the global scale. It reviews strategies adopted or to be developed under current and future global environmental changes, especially on climate change. The course will engage students in in-depth group discussions on the above issues from multidisciplinary perspectives and train students to analyze global change issues independently.
Assessment: 100% coursework

Politics and Public Administration

POLI1003. Making sense of politics (6 credits)

What is politics? And how can we make sense of it? In this course, students will be introduced to the study of politics by exploring its four streams: Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, and Public Administration. The course should serve as a taster of the four streams, with the aim that students can choose to pursue any or all of these streams in their future studies.

This course assumes that students have no previous training in politics and public administration.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Psychology

PSYC1001. Introduction to psychology (6 credits)

Discussion of basic concepts in psychology and a preliminary survey of representative work carried out in various areas of psychological investigation, together with an investigation at some length of one such area.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Social Work and Social Administration

SOWK1001. Introduction to social administration (6 credits)

This is a basic course in the understanding of social policy in the areas of human resources planning and education, land use and housing, ageing and social security, family and support services, etc.

The two courses, SOWK1001 Introduction to social administration and SOWK1008 Social welfare system and social policy, are mutually exclusive. Students can only take either one of these two courses within their whole course of study.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK1002. Introduction to social work (6 credits)

The course introduces the basic principles and concepts of social work. Students will obtain an understanding of the philosophy, knowledge and values which form the base for social work practice, social work as a profession, and the role of the social worker in modern society.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK1004. Human behaviour and the social environment (I) (6 credits)

This course introduces a holistic approach to an exploration of normal patterns of development from infancy to old age. Social and familial conditions affecting growth at different stages in the

life-cycle will be studied, together with related problems of adaptation and adjustment.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK1008. Social welfare system and social policy (6 credits)

This course introduces the basic concepts and function of social welfare and social services, and the principles and methods of social policy and social planning. Analysis will be undertaken on a range of social services in Hong Kong such as housing, health, labour, education, social security and social welfare services including family, children and youth, community development, rehabilitation, elderly and other relevant services. Students taking the course will also acquire an understanding of the philosophy, mechanism and processes of policy making and planning, the methods of analyzing and evaluating social policy.
The two courses, SOWK1001 Introduction to social administration and SOWK1008 Social welfare system and social policy, are mutually exclusive. Students can only take either one of these two courses within their whole course of study.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

SOWK1012. Communication and counselling skills in everyday life (6 credits)

"*No man is an island*" – John Donne. Human beings are social animals. It is our natural behavior to communicate with others. Good communication skills, however, are learned skills and not innate. Good counselling skills are advanced communication techniques. This course is an introduction to the basic communication and counselling skills required for establishing close and helping relationship with others. Students will be introduced to the concepts, skills and self-awareness needed for helpful interviewing and counseling and they can be applied in everyday life. Students are expected to have developed good listening skills, interviewing skills, and creative thinking and problem solving skills at the end of the course. Most importantly, this course aims to assist students to identify their personal areas of strengths and weaknesses in order to allow them to become effective listener and communicator.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOWK1015. Introduction to social policy and social development (6 credits)

This course introduces the basic concepts and theoretical frameworks of social policy and social development, the history of social welfare in Hong Kong and in the international contexts, the process of programme and policy development, roles of various stakeholders (e.g., the government, the market sector, the voluntary sector, and the public), and the evaluation of programmes and policies. Students will acquire an understanding of social policy and social development through cases of diverse modes of social intervention from the developed and developing world.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Sociology

SOCI1001. Introduction to sociology (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the nature of sociological enquiry and the basic concepts used in sociological analysis. After some reference to the influence of inheritance and environment on human social behaviour, the course will focus on key concepts used in the analysis of cultures, social structures, social processes and social change. Topics include social class, education, media, culture and crime. The relationship between research, concepts and contemporary theory will be explored at an introductory level.
Assessment: 40% coursework, 60% examination.

SOCI1003. Introduction to anthropology (6 credits)

This course will explore, through cross-cultural comparison, key social and cultural issues, such as marriage and the family, caste and class, ethnicity and identity, language and culture, state formation, economic values, gender and religion. The course will draw on studies of the peoples and cultures of Asia.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

SOCI1004. Introduction to sociology: the world's on fire (and other problems) (6 credits)

Sociology is a tricky subject because it is so diverse – and indeed what Sociologists can (and do!) study is absolutely ubiquitous, from what we eat or wear to the predictors of revolution. Given this diversity, the goal of our course is foremost to get you acquainted with a sociological way of thinking, and to help you apply this way of thinking to the social issues that interest you.

The course will help you acquire these tools by introducing you to some of the core sociological themes. In lectures, we will also systematically investigate and apply these themes to the issue of climate change – thereby demonstrating how the sociological imagination can be used to understand an important social problem. In tutorials and in your assignments, you will then be invited to apply your new sociological imagination to issues of your own choosing.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Law

LLAW1001. and LLAW1002. Law of contract I and II (12 credits)

The function of contract; formation of contract; including offer and acceptance, consideration and estoppel, certainty, intention to create legal relations and privity; contents of a contract, including express and implied terms, exemption clauses and statutory control; vitiating factors, including mistake, misrepresentation, duress, undue influence and unconscionability; discharge of contract, including performance, agreement, breach and frustration; remedies, including damages, specific performance, injunctions, action for an agreed sum, account of profits, liquidated damages, deposits, part-payments, rectification and rescission.

Assessment: 10% class participation in tutorials, 40% mid-year examination, 50% final examination.

LLAW1005. and LLAW1006. Law of tort I and II (12 credits)

Tort is one of the first subjects undertaken in the LLB degree. Along with contract and unjust enrichment (also sometimes referred to as restitution), it forms part of the law of obligations, which covers the situations in which one person may be liable to another person in private law. In tort, that liability is, generally, to pay damages as compensation for a wrong. The law of torts covers a vast array of circumstances in which an individual incurs responsibility for conduct that the law classifies as wrongful.

For the most part, the law of torts comprises a set of doctrines and principles that have been developed by the common law courts. It is, accordingly, for the most part a subject that demands familiarity with the rules enshrined in case law. But, as with most other areas of law today, statute law now also plays an important role. As such, students who study this course will need to master both a large number of cases and a limited number of statutes.

While the law of torts has been around in one form or another for centuries, the rules it contains are far from settled. Much of the law—including new developments—remains controversial. Mastery of the subject thus requires familiarity not just with the established principles that are clear and universally accepted, but also some appreciation of those parts that are unsettled and the subject of ongoing debates.

Assessment: 50% mid-term examination, 50% final examination

LLAW1008. The legal system of the Hong Kong SAR (6 credits)

This course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to the prinicples of law governing the legal system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, the only common law jurisdiction in East Asia. It encourages students to appreciate the underlying values of legal practice and the administration of justice in the context of wider global and regional developments. It explains the crucial role played by the rule of law in Hong Kong's historic transition from a cluster of marginal fishing settlements into an international financial centre under Chinese sovereignty over the course of nearly two centuries. Assessment: 10% tutorial participation, 90% examination.

LLAW1014. and LLAW1015. Criminal law I and Criminal law II (12 credits)

Criminal law I introduces students to the principles of Hong Kong criminal law and liability. Topics include the nature and classification of crime, elements of criminal procedure in Hong Kong, the burden of proof and the impact of constitutional human rights, and the general principles of criminal responsibility. Offences considered will include homicide, non-fatal offences against the person, criminal damage and 20 theft.

Criminal law II examines further aspects of criminal law and liability in Hong Kong, including criminal defences, participation and inchoate liability. It will examine the application of the general principles of criminal responsibility in selected criminal offence areas, including homicide, assaults, sexual offences, and theft and deception. Where possible, students will be encouraged to consider alternative approaches to the principles of liability, and to develop social

policy analysis skills.

Assessment: 10% magistrate's court report, 30% mid-term examination, 60% final examination

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LLAW1016. Legal research and writing (6 credits)

Legal research and writing is a foundation skills course offered in the first semester of the first year. It introduces students to judgments, ordinances, and specific genres such as case notes and legal memoranda. As a practice-focused skills course, the lectures and tutorials work in tandem to help students develop the following inter-related skills, which are essential for the study of other law subjects and for future legal work:

Legal analysis – to closely read and analyse common law judgments, to use and interpret legislation, and to identify legal issues from fact-patterns.

Research – to identify and locate appropriate cases, legislation, and secondary sources.

Legal writing – to write succinctly and effectively, and to construct logical and persuasive arguments.

Assessment: 15% class contribution, participation in tutorials, 35% writing exercises / presentations, 50% final assessment

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ADVANCED COURSES

Faculty of Social Sciences

FOSS2018. Social Innovation internship (12 credits)

To fulfill the graduation requirement under the theme of 'Social Innovation', students will begin their local or non-local internships after completing the intensive training workshops. They will be placed in local/international NGOs or other socially-focused public/private organizations during term time or the summer. They will be supervised and assessed by both an academic tutor and a workplace supervisor.

Social Innovation Internships seek to enhance students' understanding of social issues through first-hand practical experience, and through applying knowledge and skills to real life situations. Students are expected to be socially aware and to have strong analytical, interpersonal and communication skills. On completion of the internship, students are required to give a project presentation to reflect on their work-related experiences, and in particular to demonstrate how they integrate academic theories with their work-related experiences. To complete the internship, students must write an extensive report critically reflecting on theories learned in class and analysing empirical findings and work experience gained from the internship.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

FOSS2019. Global Citizenship internship (12 credits)

In order to fulfill the graduation requirement under the theme of 'Global Citizenship', students are expected to develop strong analytical abilities in solving complex problems by undertaking non-local internships. For students taking non-local internships, they will begin their internships after completion of the intensive internship workshops. They will be placed in international NGOs or other socially-focused public/private organizations during term time or the summer. Through the participation in the non-local internships, students are expected to engage in working closely with international organizations, identifying key issues and developing strategies to enhance social development and promote social innovation. They are expected to conduct critical analysis of social issues, and to propose strategies to address the problems identified in their community organizations. They will be supervised and assessed by both an academic tutor and a workplace supervisor.

On completion of the internship, students are required to give a project presentation to reflect on their work-related experiences, and in particular to demonstrate how they integrate academic theories with their work-related experiences. To complete the internship, students must write an extensive report critically reflecting on theories learned in class and analysing empirical findings and work experience gained from the internship.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

FOSS2022. Global intensive learning programme (6 credits)

In order to fulfil the graduation requirement under the theme of 'Global Citizenship', students may undertake this 6-credit, 4-week non-local internship, together with another 6-credit endorsed experiential learning course.
Students will begin the 4-week internship after completion of the intensive training workshops. They will be placed either at a non-local social services organisation, research institution, think tank or other socially-focused public/private organisation during summer. Through the participation of an intensive 4-week internship outside Hong Kong, students can expand their horizons and integrate their academic knowledge with first-hand practical experience to explore the latest social development abroad by going beyond the confines of the campus, their own academic disciplines in social sciences and geographical boundaries. Students will be supervised and assessed by both an academic tutor and a supervisor from the Community Partner organisation.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

FOSS2023. Global Social Impact lab (6 credits)

Students may undertake this 6-credit, 4-week project-based course, which is composed of 2-week intensive workshops and a 2-week field visit, together with another 6-credit endorsed experiential learning course in order to fulfil the 'Global Citizenship' requirement.
Students will begin the 2-week on-site internship after completion of the 2-week training workshops on a specific social or environmental issue. Students will work in groups to develop a proposal for an NGO or community organisation. Through the participation of the intensive 2-week trainings in Hong Kong and another 2-week field visit outside Hong Kong, students can expand their horizons and integrate their academic knowledge with first-hand practical experience to explore the latest social development abroad by going beyond the confines of the

campus, their own academic disciplines in social sciences and geographical boundaries. Students will be supervised and assessed by both an academic tutor and a supervisor from the Community Partner organisation.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

FOSS2024. Experiential Learning I – Field Immersion (6 credits)

Experiential Learning I (EL-I) – Field Immersion is taken as a co-requisite of Experiential Learning II (EL-II) – Advanced Praxis. Students should complete EL-I first (or concurrently) to consolidate experiential learning through authentic workplace participation and guided reflection. The course EL-I provides the experiential foundation for theory-informed academic integration in Experiential Learning II.
The course provides structured and supervised internship experience in non-governmental, corporate, or government organisations aligned with social science disciplines. Through workplace immersion, students develop technical skills (e.g., data analysis, professional writing) and professional attributes such as ethics, initiative, adaptability, and workplace communication, while gaining first-hand exposure to organisational, social, and policy contexts and how social issues are encountered and addressed in practice.

The course emphasises learning through participation, observation, and guided reflection, and serves as the experiential foundation for academic integration for Experiential Learning II - Advanced Praxis.
While primarily designed for workplace internships, the course may also be offered through approved and supervised fieldwork experiences, subject to course requirements.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Co-requisite: FOSS2025.

FOSS2025. Experiential Learning II - Advanced Praxis (6 credits)

Experiential Learning II (EL-II) – Advanced Praxis is taken as a co-requisite of Experiential Learning I (EL-I) – Field Immersion. Students typically complete Experiential Learning I (EL-I) (or concurrently) to consolidate their experiential learning through structured workplace participation and guided reflection. Building on this foundation, (EL-II) focuses on advanced praxis — the critical integration of practice, theory, and reflection.
Drawing on internship or equivalent professional out of classroom experience, students engage in systematic analysis of workplace practices, organisational dynamics, and social innovation and social or policy issues using relevant social science theories, concepts, and analytical frameworks.
The course emphasises sense-making, judgement, and articulation of learning, supporting students' ability to translate experience into academically grounded and professionally meaningful insights. Through structured academic activities and integrative assessments, students develop the capacity to critically evaluate practice and position themselves as reflective and socially responsive emerging professionals.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Co-requisite: FOSS2024.

FOSS2026. Global Experiential Learning I – Field Immersion (6 credits)

Global Experiential Learning I (GEL-I) – Field Immersion is taken as a co-requisite of Global Experiential Learning II (GEL-II) – Advanced Praxis. Students should complete GEL-I first (or concurrently) to consolidate experiential learning through authentic workplace or equivalent participation and guided reflection. The course GEL-I provides the experiential foundation for theory-informed academic integration in GEL-II.
The course provides structured and supervised internship experience in non-governmental, corporate, government organisations or equivalent cross-cultural experience aligned with social science disciplines. Through relevant workplace immersion, students develop technical skills (e.g., data analysis, professional writing) and professional attributes such as ethics, initiative, adaptability, and workplace communication, while gaining first-hand exposure to organisational, social, and policy contexts and how social issues are encountered and addressed in practice.
The course emphasises learning through participation, observation, and guided reflection, and serves as the experiential foundation for academic integration for Global Experiential Learning II – Advanced Praxis.
While primarily designed for workplace internships, the course may also be offered through approved and supervised fieldwork experiences, subject to course requirements.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Co-requisite: FOSS2027.

FOSS2027. Global Experiential Learning II – Advanced Praxis (6 credits)

Global Experiential Learning II (GEL-II) – Advanced Praxis is taken as a co-requisite of Global Experiential Learning I (GEL-I) – Field Immersion. Students typically complete GEL-I (or concurrently) to consolidate their experiential learning through structured workplace participation and guided reflection. Building on this foundation, GEL-II focuses on advanced praxis — the critical integration of practice, theory, and reflection.
Drawing on a non-local internship or equivalent professional out of classroom experience, students engage in systematic analysis of workplace practices, organisational dynamics, and social innovation and social or policy issues using relevant social science theories, concepts, and analytical frameworks.
The course emphasises sense-making, judgement, and articulation of learning, supporting students' ability to translate cross-cultural and boundary-crossing experiences into academically grounded and professionally meaningful insights. Through structured academic activities and integrative assessments, students develop the capacity to critically evaluate practice and position themselves as reflective and socially responsive emerging professionals.
Assessment: 100% coursework.
Co-requisite: FOSS2026.

Politics and Public Administration

Compulsory course

POLI2104. Research methods in politcs and public administration (6 credits)

Political scientists use a variety of methods to describe and explain political phenomena. Each

method has its own purposes, assumptions, and limitations. This course covers the methods most commonly used in the study of politics and policies. Topics include the nature of scientific inquiry, measurement and causal inference; the conduct of case studies and field research; the design of surveys and experiments; the description and analysis of data; and research ethics. The course has a practical bent: its goal is to equip students with a working knowledge to put the methods to actual use.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Gateway courses

POLI2105. Introduction to comparative politics (6 credits)

This course introduces students to a thematic approach in understanding politics in comparative settings. Drawing upon examples from liberal democracies, illiberal democracies and authoritarian states, the course examines the characteristics of the main political institutions and processes of the states, including political culture, political participation, the media, political parties, elections, the legislatures and executives. It compares how the various types of states govern, the types of political goods they can probably deliver and their drawbacks. Overall, it explores which way(s) is the best, and if democracy is universally applicable.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI2106. Introduction to international relations (6 credits)

This course is an introduction to the study of International Relations. Students will acquire knowledge and analytic tools that are helpful in understanding and explaining a variety of international phenomena. After a brief historical introduction, the first part of the course will focus primarily on understanding the main International Relations perspectives on the nature of the international system and the causes of interstate war, cooperation and peace. The second part will expand into analyzing other aspects -- either non-violent or non-state-centric -- of international politics, including international trade and international law. The course provides a foundation for further study in International Relations.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

POLI2107. Introduction to political theory (6 credits)

This course addresses some of the fundamental questions in the field of political theory, including: Why should we obey the law? Who should rule us? What rights and liberties should citizens have? How should property be distributed? By addressing these and other questions, the course provides students with a broad introduction to the major concepts in Western political theory, such as authority, democracy, liberty, rights, equality, and justice.
This is a "gateway" course, and it is recommended that students complete this course before enrolling in any other political theory classes.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI2108. Introduction to public administration (6 credits)

The purpose of this gateway course is to introduce students to the fundamental concepts and theories of public administration. Students will gain an overview of both issues and practices related to the public administration. The course focuses on the traditions, environment, politics, and core functions of public administration.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

Capstone courses

POLI4092. Capstone experience: Research internship in politics and public administration (6 credits)

Students will have the opportunity to perform basic research under the supervision of a faculty member. The internship includes meeting individually with the supervisor, reading relevant materials, assisting in an ongoing empirical research project, and writing an internship report.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI4109. Capstone experience: Directed project in politics and public administration (6 credits)

Students will do an empirical research project on a specific topic under a teacher's supervision. The project involves meeting with the supervisor, reading relevant theoretical and empirical articles, conducting empirical research projects, and writing a project report.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI4046. Thesis in politics and public administration (12 credits)

This is a two-semester project catered for highly motivated students that are interested in graduate studies and research careers. The course should be taken during the senior year under the supervision of a faculty member. The thesis should be at least 10,000 words long and individually written. It is expected to be a substantive piece of scholarship that demonstrates critical reflections and original research findings on a topic agreed by the supervisor. Students must have achieved a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5. They should submit a research proposal to their intended supervisor and secure the latter's agreement to supervise their thesis before enrolling in the course.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

Elective courses

POLI3001. Special topics in political science (6 credits)

This course will focus on topics drawn from various areas of political science. Specific titles and course descriptions are available in the department website.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

POLI3002. Special topics in political theory (6 credits)

This course will focus on some major topics in political theory. Specific titles and course descriptions are available in the department website.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

POLI3005. Capitalism and social justice (6 credits)

This course aims to analyse the concept of social justice, and examine which economic system might best achieve it. The positions to be assessed span the political spectrum, including the modern liberalism of John Rawls, the classical liberalism of F. A. Hayek, Robert Nozick's libertarianism, John Stuart Mill's utilitarianism, and contemporary defences of socialism. The course will engage with debates about the status of economic liberties within liberal theory, exploitation and sweatshop labour, and the extent that state intervention in economic production is necessary and desirable within society.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3010. Democracy and its critics (6 credits)

This course aims to explore a set of important issues about the theory and practice of democracy. The first part of the course will examine the challenge of meritocracy and various justifications of democracy, including those offered by Mill, Rousseau, Schumpeter, and others. The second part will address some of the most pressing problems facing liberal democracies today: how to improve the quality of public deliberation in the age of social media? How to overcome the challenges posed by populism? How to maintain the efficacy of democratic institutions in a global capitalist economy?
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3015. Ethics and public policy (6 credits)

This course examines major yet controversial public policies in contemporary societies from the perspectives of ethics and political theory. It is a course that connects public policy-making and ethics; it is a course that teaches students the significance of policy analysis in ethical perspectives. Topics covered may include but not be limited to the following policy areas: public health policies; national security; economic-finance policies; education policies; and land policies. Students are strongly recommended to complete POLI2107 or CCHU9009 before taking this course.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3019. Hong Kong and the world (6 credits)

Hong Kong's international character has been vital to its prosperity and vitality. While Hong Kong's 'foreign affairs portfolio' is controlled by China, Hong Kong retains considerable autonomy in shaping its international destiny. What global course should Hong Kong leaders chart? This class will examine the Special Administrative Region's unique international status, its complex identity as a Chinese world city and its track record in facing the challenges and opportunities associated with today's highly interdependent global system.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3020. Hong Kong politics (6 credits)

This course focuses on the legal, political and institutional structure of the Hong Kong government. The political culture and attitudes of the Hong Kong people are discussed. Other topics include the Chief Executive, legislative politics, constitutional politics, public opinion, pressure groups, political parties, mass media, and Beijing's policy toward Hong Kong.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3022. Contemporary Chinese politics (6 credits)

This course is an introduction to contemporary Chinese politics. The main objective is to understand the ideology, institutions and processes of the contemporary Chinese political system and explore the socio-economic consequences, achievements, and problems of socialism with Chinese characteristics.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

POLI3023. Special topics in Chinese politics (6 credits)

This course will focus on some major topics in Chinese politics. Specific titles and course descriptions are available in the department website.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

POLI3024. Special topics in public administration (6 credits)

This course offers an opportunity for students to examine current issues in public administration, particularly those facing the Hong Kong government.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

POLI3025. Managerial skills in public organizations (6 credits)

This course focuses on the activities and functions of managers in public organizations. Emphasis is put on the environment and context within which public managers operate, and the various managerial skills and tools that are essential to effective public managers. Students are expected to acquire skills to manage conflicts, lead, manage resources, communicate, and make decisions in the context of public organizations. Reference is made to the experiences in various public or non-profit organizations in Hong Kong.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

POLI3027. Public policy research (6 credits)

This course is a venue for students to discuss and review on-going public policy research projects by faculty members and graduate students at the Department of Politics and Public

Administration, as well as collaborators at other institutions. In these projects, we ask questions about empirical and normative issues across public policy topics, from resource governance and regulatory oversight to bureaucratic control and crisis management. Through in-depth exchanges about research designs and analytical strategies, we want students to understand how public policy problems and solutions can be assessed in preparation for a broad range of careers where such skills are in demand.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

POLI3031. Politics of economic reform in China (6 credits)

This course examines the politics of economic reform in contemporary China. After a brief historical review of the planning era, we study various aspects of China's economic transition after 1978, with a special focus on the economic and political tradeoffs behind each reform program. In the first half of the semester, we will cover areas such as the rural transformation, the enterprise reform, the reform of the fiscal system, trade and foreign direct investment policies, and the reform of the financial system. In the second half of the semester, we will discuss issues related to the current landscape of China's political economy, including income inequality, political governance, environmental protection and other challenges.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

POLI3034. Public administration in China (6 credits)

This course aims to examine the context, structure, people and important issues in managing the public sector in contemporary China. The course provides students a basic understanding of China's public administration system and its reforms. Several very important topics will be covered, including the relationship between the Party and the government, government structure and intergovernmental relations, and how to manage public employees, and key issues in policy-making and implementation in contemporary China. This course encourages students to conduct group project, which will allow students to learn public policy analysis targeting real hot issues unfolding during China's reform era. Sample policy areas include food safety management, waste management and crisis management. The newly emerged modes of public service delivery in China will also be discussed.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

POLI3035. Public administration in Hong Kong (6 credits)

Public administration in Hong Kong is shaped by its colonial legacies and by the Hong Kong government's position as a local government of the People's Republic of China. Since 2020, authorities have centralized power over Hong Kong and within Hong Kong to implement executive-led government. Political appointees and civil servants play critical roles in the policy process, but they co-produce most policy with civil society. We also examine the role of civic engagement and elite cooptation in the policy process. The course combines extensive reviews of scholarly research on Hong Kong with lectures (including guest lectures), discussion, and a group project that helps expand the collection of articles about public administration in Hong Kong on Wikipedia.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3037. Managing people in public organizations (6 credits)

This course seeks to improve students' capacities to analyze and interpret the context, institutions, processes and key issues in the management of people in public organizations with special reference to Hong Kong from the perspective of agency theory. There are two guest lectures offered by public managers. By the end of the course, students should be able to critically evaluate the control and accountability problems involved in managing the public sector work force and strategies to overcome them. Students should also be able to analyze and evaluate cases in public sector human resource management.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

POLI3039. Public policy analysis (6 credits)

This is an introductory course to public policy analysis with an emphasis on the production of advice for decision-makers. This course builds foundations of public policy analysis by covering related theories and concepts. Having answered why we need government intervention in solving public policy problems, this course also seeks to equip students with skills and techniques to analyze, design, and assess policy options.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3040. Public sector management (6 credits)

Public administration is conducted through a variety of public organizations and institutional arrangements that collectively constitute the public sector. This course aims to provide students an understanding on the key issues of public sector management. It is structured into four parts: (1) the scope and structure of public sector, including the features and operation of various types of public organizations; (2) the human resource management issues within public organizations; (3) various modes of public service delivery; and (4) public sector reform strategies. Reference is made to the experience in Hong Kong.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

POLI3044. United States politics (6 credits)

American politics frequently captivates domestic and international audiences. However, without a better understanding of key aspects of the American political system and its political dynamics it may sometimes difficult to develop a good understanding of political events occurring in it – or the United States various domestic and international policies. The purpose of this course is to provide students with such an introduction to American politics. Students will learn about the key aspects of the American political system: the formal (executive, judiciary, and legislative) and informal (bureaucracy, media, interest groups, etc.) branches of government, its creation and development into its present form, the way officials at various branches and levels are selected, the contours of American federalism, how domestic policy is done and some of the main issues that animate its domestic political debates. Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

POLI3047. United States foreign policy (6 credits)

This course will discuss a key aspect of American foreign policy- the various ways in which the U.S. government tries to influence developments within other states by intervening in their domestic affairs. The goal of this course is to provide a better understanding of such interventions in general and a more complete picture of this frequently neglected aspect of American foreign policy in particular. Accordingly this course will focus on explaining, among other things, why interventions of various types are done, their effectiveness in achieving their goals and their effects on the target and others. It will also discuss various historical cases of American interventions in-depth ranging from the early 20th century to the present, widening the depth and breadth of student knowledge on American foreign policy. The course will cover both military and non-military forms of interventions including (for example): military interventions in civil wars, FIRCs/regime change operations, partisan electoral interventions, economic sanctions, and drone warfare.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

POLI3051. Issues in Chinese political philosophy (6 credits)

You may have noticed that the vocabularies of contemporary Chinese politics are drastically different from those prevalent in Western societies. While liberal democracies focus on freedom, democracy, and the rule of law, Chinese leaders often emphasize unity, order, and prosperity. This divergence is deeply rooted in, among other things, different intellectual legacies that they inherited. This course invites you on an intellectual journey to explore the political thought of tumultuous times in ancient China covering the late Spring and Autumns (770-476 BC) and Warring State (476-221 BC) periods, which were a defining moment in Chinese political thought. The different schools of thought we examine left a huge imprint on subsequent history in East Asia to this day. As such, this course is for both those interested in ancient Chinese thought itself and those willing to reflect on the past to critically engage the present.

This is not a history course though we pay close attention to historical backgrounds. The course is not neatly divided up along different schools of thought but organized in thematic terms thereby immersing you in the intellectual climate of that age. More specifically, we focus on the following questions: what is, for ancient thinkers, the common good for All Under Heaven? How can the ruler deliver good governance? What is the standard of political legitimacy? What role do scholars play in political order? What is the relationship between domestic and international order? How do all of these bear on the understanding of human nature? By the end of the course, we also briefly discuss how the past connects up to the present in China's path toward modernity. Throughout the course, you will read selected texts of Mohism, Confucianism (Confucius, Mencius, Xunzi), Legalism (Shangyang, Shendao, Hanfei), and Daoism (Laozi, Zhuangzi, Huainanzi). Knowledge of the Chinese language is not required as both primary and secondary readings are available in English.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3052. International relations of East Asia (6 credits)

This course helps students to have a better understanding of major trends and issues in international relations of East Asia. Instead of providing a comprehensive survey of the history, culture, and national policies of countries in the region, it mainly addresses four issues in the course: What are major trends in regional IR? What is the source of conflict in the region? What are the common interests that unite peoples and states of East Asia? How does the region

organize itself? It explains dynamics and patterns of regional international relations in a broad geopolitical and geoeconomic context. Topics in discussion include major powers' role in the region, the Korean Peninsula, the Taiwan Strait, ASEAN, Southeastern Asia and regional institution-building.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

POLI3059. China and the world (6 credits)

In this course we investigate several important puzzles about China in international politics: Can earlier periods of China's history help us understand its contemporary foreign policies? What does China's economic transformation since 1978 mean for the global economy? Will the United States and China successfully accommodate each other, or will the coming years be defined by friction and conflict? Do China's military, political, and economic activities abroad threaten or complement the interests of other states and societies? This course examines these questions by surveying classic and recent research on China's historical and contemporary foreign relations. In doing so, it considers China in the context of broader theories in international relations. It also introduces students to different social science research approaches including qualitative case studies, archival research, survey experiments, and large-N statistical analyses. The first third of the course focuses on historical Chinese foreign relations. The remaining two thirds turn to contemporary issues in the study of Chinese foreign policy.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3061. Hong Kong and South China: the political economy of regional development and cooperation (6 credits)

The growing integration between Hong Kong and South China has profound implications not only for this region, but also for China and Asia as a whole. This course aims to analyze such an important development and its many implications. It is divided into three parts. Part I offers an overview of the development of the South China region. Theoretical approaches in the study of regionalism, intergovernmental relations and globalization and their relevance for understanding South China will also be examined. Part II analyzes the social, economic and political links between Hong Kong and Greater China and the development experience of South China since the late 1970s. Part III will focus on several key issues in regional development and cooperation in the South China region, including intergovernmental cooperation mechanisms, economic and technological development, demographic flows,
boundary control, transportation and infra-structural development, as well as environmental management.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

POLI3064/LLAW3080. Governance and law (6 credits)

This course seeks to understand why the state regulates certain activities and behaviour in society, what different forms of regulation exist, when and what kind of legal regulation is deemed necessary, how legal regulation is enforced, and checks balances against abuse in enforcement. This course is jointly taught by staff from the Department of Politics and Public Administration and the Department of Law. The main objective of the course is to explore the interface between the study of Politics and Law in understanding governance. Relevant case

studies will be included for illustration and discussion.
Assessment: 50% examination, 30% research paper, 20% group project presentation.

POLI3065. Public organization and management (6 credits)

This course examines theories of organization for understanding organizational phenomena and discusses potential strategies for enhancing organizational performance. The class draws on studies and practices of organizations from different sectors as learning materials. Emphasis is placed on the application of theory to various organizational settings including public, private and nonprofit organizations. Through exposing students to various streams of organization literature, the course aims to develop students' ability to understand systematically and analyze critically organizational phenomena. By the end of the semester, students will be equipped with some basic tools for improving organizational performance.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3067. Sex, drugs, and the limits of liberalism (6 credits)

The purpose of this course is to explore a set of fundamental issues about the proper scope of personal freedom and the power of the state. We will discuss questions such as: can the state permissibly interfere with your liberty, for your own good? Is it wrong to prohibit the consumption of pleasurable drugs? Should the state nudge you to make healthier lifestyle choices? Can the state ever permissibly prohibit sexual relations between consenting adults? Should state laws and policies be neutral between different views of what makes life worthwhile? Is it wrong that we all have to pay for public art, museums, and culture through general taxation, regardless of whether we think they are valuable? The course aims to assess the strengths and limits of liberalism by examining the arguments for and against the liberal views on these issues.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3069. Public policy, politics and social change (6 credits)

Profound social and economic changes and technological transformations have recast the way our government and society operate to achieve prosperity, social stability, political order, and sustainable development. This course will first provide a foundation for understanding the politics of the public policy process, such as the key approaches to the study of public policy, the political and institutional contexts of policymaking, the challenge of problem definition and agenda-setting, policy design and formulation, as well as policy implementation. Next the course will examine several important socio-economic transformations in the early 21st century such as demographic transition, social mobility and inequality, regional development, and technological transformation, and explore the policy responses to cope with such changes, especially in the context of Hong Kong, Mainland China, and other Asian countries.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

POLI3076. Special topics in international politics (6 credits)

This course will focus on some major topics in international politics. Specific titles and course descriptions are available in the department website.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

POLI3077. Special topics in comparative politics (6 credits)

This course will focus on some major topics in comparative politics. Specific titles and course descriptions are available in the department website.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

POLI3079. Global justice (6 credits)

This course examines some major global issues from the perspectives of political philosophy and ethics, issues such as world poverty, unequal development, immigration and the treatment of refugees, war and intervention, and climate change. We will discuss questions like the following: what is the source and the content of human rights? What duties, if any, do the global affluent have towards the world's poor? Does global justice require distributive equality? What, if any, is the significance of borders and nationality? How to understand legitimacy and authority and how is the use of force justified in international politics? What is our moral relationship with the natural world? What duties do we have towards the future generations?
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3080. Global political economy (6 credits)

This course explores the political dimensions of global economic relations. The objectives of this course are to give students a better appreciation of major problems and dilemmas of contemporary global economy and to provide a conceptual framework for addressing policy problems in the global economy. We begin by examining several contending perspectives on global political economy. The course then examines distinct issue areas: globalization, development, trade, capital flows, financial crises, multinational production, environmental degradation, world hunger, and the transnational movement of people.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3093. Understanding social protest (6 credits)

From Hong Kong's political demonstration on July 1st to the protest rally organized by your student union, social protest is undoubtedly an important form of politics. Outside of the formal and institutionalized channels, people do take politics onto the streets and use disruptive means to achieve political ends from time to time. This course seeks to provide students with grounding in the basic tools of understanding social protest and social movement. In addition to Hong Kong, cases will be drawn from many different countries—from the American civil rights movement to the 2007 democratic demonstrations in Burma, from Gandhi's satyagraha (non-violent resistance) to the more recent "color revolutions" in Europe and Central Asia etc. Students will also learn about influential social movement leaders past and present, such as Martin Luther King, Gandhi, Mandela, Mao, Lech Walesa, Aung San Suu Kyi and more.

Note: Students who have taken CCCH9009 Protests, rebellions and revolution are not allowed to take this course.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3094. Political participation: Why and how? (6 credits)

Why and how do people participate in politics? What are the channels through which people make their voices heard and interests represented? Why does political participation take different forms in different countries? Why is participation important for democracy to sustain and non-democracies to change? This course will examine the dynamics and patterns of political participation in both democratic and non-democratic societies. Topics will cover voting & election, political party, representative institution, public opinion, civic organization, mass media, lobbying, interest group and informal politics in democratic societies as well as the modes, scope and impact of political participation under non-democratic regimes.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

POLI3095. Civil society and governance (6 credits)

The main objective of the course is to help students understand the concept of civil society, its historical circumstances and theoretical approaches, and the role of civil society in public governance. Topics include conceptions of civil society in the history of political thought and contemporary discourse; roles and impacts of civil society; trends of civil society development; theoretical approaches to civil society; social movements; legitimacy and accountability of civil society organizations; legal framework for civil society organizations, and the role of civil society in public governance.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

POLI3097. Modernity and globalization (6 credits)

The concept of 'modernity' refers to a series of developments that transformed the world in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, such as the emergence of the modern state, democracy, capitalism and modern industry. The concept of 'globalization' refers to a series of similar dynamics in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, such as the emergence of global governance, new forms of global trade and industry, and apparent transformations in cultures and societies. This module surveys some of the most important debates about modernity and globalization in social and political thought, addressing important questions such as: What does it mean to be 'modern'? Is modernity a distinctively 'Western' experience? What is 'globalization'? Is globalization a transformation or continuation of modernity? Does globalization mark the 'triumph' of the 'West'?
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3098. Nonprofit management (6 credits)

This course is designed to advance students' understanding of the management and operation of organizations in the nonprofit sector. In particular, it examines issues unique to the governance and administration of nonprofits, including board management, fundraising,

philanthropy, nonprofit accounting and reporting, leadership, and network management. Students will learn both the theories and practical techniques required for an effective manager in nonprofit organizations.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

POLI3103. Rise of the Global South? Colonialism, development, and the changing world order (6 credits)

International Relations (IR) is a Western discipline, but most of the world is not Western. By studying IR from global south perspectives, we study international politics from below — and thus, hopefully, learn more about it than we would if we only studied the perspectives of the dominant. We first study the lasting impacts of imperialism and colonialism. We then examine the evolution and results of "catch-up" strategies that global south countries have relied on to bridge the gap with the West. In the second part of the course, we study current developmental issues: slums, informal labor, migration, climate change. In a third bloc, we study the changing world order. How do countries of the global south position themselves in the current great power rivalry?
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

POLI3110. Dilemmas of humanitarian intervention (6 credits)

To examine dilemmas of humanitarian intervention, the course looks not only at states but also at INGOs and the aid business, and not only at aid but also at wider forms of political engagement. It focuses on (a) the emergence of humanitarian intervention, (b) its contemporary nature, (c) success and failure, (d) moral challenges, and (e) ways forward. It requires small groups of course participants to select one developing country for in-depth study, both to deepen their learning and to build a platform for comparative analysis in class.
Eligibility: Students who have taken CCGL9036 Dilemmas of humanitarian intervention are not allowed to take this course.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

POLI3113. On the ethics of violence (6 credits)

This course discusses issues like the ethics of self- defense, punishment, necessity justifications for violence, torture, war, revolution and terrorism. It will also show that the ethics of violence is fundamental for a proper understanding of certain basic problems and principles in political philosophy and in the organisation of human societies.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

POLI3115. Politics and public opinion (6 credits)

What is public opinion? How does public opinion influence politics? Can political elites manipulate public opinion? This course guides students to critically think about the three questions with a comparative review of classic and frontier research on political behavior and political communication in both democratic and authoritarian contexts. Specifically, it examines how citizens form opinions, how public opinion may influence policymaking and

political selection, and how politicians and the media may shape public opinion. Along the way, it introduces students to a variety of methods for the study of public opinion, including survey, survey/lab/field experiment, and content analysis.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3116. Theories and practice of social leadership (6 credits)

The aim of this course is to give students a fundamental and practical understanding of social leadership. It is designed for students from a variety of backgrounds, cultures, and experiences in summer internships and extra-curricular activities. As society becomes increasingly diversified that calls for social innovation and requires high adaptability and contextual intelligence of social leaders, students need to be equipped with mindsets and skill-sets that cross over various sectors in public administration, business, society and the academia. The purpose of this course is to significantly increase students' capacity to sustain the demands of leadership and to strengthen students' ability to exercise both leadership and authority.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3117. Special topics in public policy (6 credits)

This course will focus on some major topics in public policy. Specific titles and course descriptions are available in the department website.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

POLI3118. Special topics in NGO studies (6 credits)

This course will focus on some major topics in NGOs studies. Specific titles and course descriptions are available in the department website.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3119. Causes of international war (6 credits)

This course studies the causes of war. Competing theories of war are discussed; different methods of testing the theories are considered; and illustrative historical cases are examined, with a focus on East Asia. Also covered are the implications of nuclear weapons on international security, and the consequences of war on societies and individual human lives.
This is an advanced course that includes a major research investigation project.
Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3076 in 2013-14 or 2014-15 are not allowed to take this course.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3121. Environmental policy (6 credits)

This course aims to provide introduction into the principles of environmental policy. It introduces fundamental theories and basic principles applied to environmental policy analysis. This course will help students to understand how economic incentives originate environmental problems and what roles government and public policy play. This course continues with

discussions on various environmental policy issues, including international environmental issues and energy.
Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3117 in 2014-15 are not allowed to take this course.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3122. Strategic leadership in civil society organizations (6 credits)

The course is designed to advance students' understanding of strategic leadership in civil society organisations. Strategic leadership involves interpreting the environment, crafting strategies, and building an organization that thrives in dynamic environments. A vibrant civil society calls for strategic leadership that goes beyond a single agency's interest, is driven by a collective vision and drives social change. In addition to learning theories of strategic leadership, students will practice strategic thinking and gain a deeper understanding of development of strategies in response to challenges arising from changing social needs, growing demands for social services and collective action problems in service provision.
Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3024 in 2013-14 or 2014-15 are not allowed to take this course.
Assessment: 50% examination, 50% coursework.

POLI3123. Politics of the two Koreas (6 credits)

This course examines political actors, processes, and issues in domestic politics and foreign relations of South and North Korea since 1945. It will begin with a brief overview of the shared historical origins of political institutions in the two Koreas, and move onto in-depth surveys about the divergent institutional, economic, and foreign relations paths that North and South Korea took after the Korean War. The third part of the course is devoted to the analysis about the contemporary inter-Korean relations, focusing on the causes and consequences of military tensions, nuclear crises, and various dialogues and cooperation initiatives since 1990. Lastly, it will discuss how the political and economic developments in the two Koreas affect and are influenced by the regional and international relations.
Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3076 in 2015-16 are not allowed to take this course.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3124. Justice and good life (6 credits)

This course explores some of the basic issues in the debate between liberal neutrality and state perfectionism, which are at the core of liberal political theory. These issues include: What should be the relationship between the good life and social justice? Should a liberal state pursue social justice but not any kind of human good, such as knowledge and art? Can there be any objective knowledge about the good life? Is state promotion of the good life necessarily unfair to people who live in many different ways? In addition, if you care about injustice and poverty, how come you are so rich (or you want to be rich)? We shall also discuss some of the theories of prominent philosophers including Wilhelm von Humboldt, Karl Marx, J.S. Mill, John Rawls, and Joseph Raz. The course aims to enhance students' abilities to appreciate some of the main arguments in political theory and formulate their own views on a wide range of social and political issues. This is an advanced course in political theory. It is strongly recommended that students who want to take this course have already studied the gateway course "Introduction

of political theory" and have a serious interest in political theory.
Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3002 in 2016-17 are not allowed to take this course.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3126. Politics of contemporary Japan (6 credits)

This course examines the politics of contemporary Japan. After a brief historical review, we survey the core political institutions of the postwar era, explore the interaction of political leaders, political parties, the bureaucracy and interest groups, with an emphasis on the ongoing transformation of the Japanese political system. We focus particularly on political changes since 1993, including the new electoral system and party realignment. Special attention is devoted to contemporary issues, such as foreign policy, economic policy, national security and administrative reform.
Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3001 in 2015-16 or 2016-17 are not allowed to take this course.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

POLI3127. The politics of the European Union (6 credits)

What is the EU? How does it work? And why does it matter? The EU is a unique experiment in transnational cooperation. It is neither a state nor an international organization, but it has characteristics of both. It promotes closer integration among its member states, while also trying to accommodate their diversity. It struggles to maintain external borders, while striving to remove internal borders. It seeks to establish a strong identity and role for itself in a world that is dominated by powerful states, such as the US and China. The EU today faces many challenges – making its study timely and relevant for anyone who wishes to understand global politics.
This course traces the development of the EU into a major economic and political actor in the 21st century. We will study the EU's political structures, its process of enlargement and its foreign policy. We will also study some of the ongoing crises that threaten European unity, including the euro crisis, the refugee crisis, Brexit, and the rise of populism.
Eligibility: students who have taken POLI3076 in 2016 – 17 are not allowed to take this course.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

POLI3129. Foreign policy decision making (6 credits)

How do countries make decisions? What explains the foreign policy of states in the international system? This course examines the major theories of foreign policy decisions making including, rational choice, bureaucratic politics, group think as well as psychological and environmental factors that influence decision making in foreign policy. The various theoretical approaches are applied to historical case studies to test the empirical validity of different theories. A decision making simulation game will be used to help apply and understand the various models.
Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3001 in 2017-18 are not allowed to take this course.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

POLI3130. Latin American politics (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the politics of Latin America, a region defined by dramatic political upheaval and dynamic experimentation, as well as persistent, deeply entrenched challenges and inequalities. The course begins by focusing on the historical and structural factors and processes that have shaped the trajectory of the region's politics and development, before diving into the institutions that have characterized its democracies since the late 20th century. We then explore the contested nature of Latin American politics by engaging with topics including populism and revolutions, and examine some of the unique contemporary challenges the region faces, which include widespread insecurity and transnational organized crime. Throughout the course, we also analyze the international relations of Latin America, considering the historical influence of the US, as well as the growing importance of China as a strategic and commercial partner.

Eligibility: Students who took POLI3077 in 2017-18 or before are not allowed to take this course.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3131. In search of good policy: an introduction to policy evaluation (6 credits)

This course provides an introduction to rigorous policy evaluation methods. The main objective of this course is to familiarize students with a wide range of quantitative methods that are increasingly used to evaluate public policy and inform policy-making. Students will begin by reflecting on the interaction between statistics, policy analysis and decision-making. This will be followed by an introduction to the fundamental concepts underlying quantitative evaluation methods. The remainder of the course will focus on understanding the theory and application of policy evaluation methodologies, including randomized experiments, instrumental variable analysis, matching and difference-in-differences. Additional topics to be covered include mixed methods approaches, review and synthesis approaches, choice experiments, and the impact of big data on evaluation methods. By the end of the course, students will be able to fully engage with published studies using quantitative evaluation methods and to be able to draw out appropriate policy implications. This course does not require any pre-existing experience or training in mathematics or statistics.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3132. Terrorism and political violence (6 credits)

While warfare between states has become quite infrequent, conflicts between governments and terrorist groups have increasingly developed into one of the predominant form of political violence. Indeed, long before the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, domestic (or transnational) terrorist groups have terrorized tens of millions of civilians and scores of countries around the world. Since the turn of the century, terrorist attacks have also become increasingly lethal and destructive in various ways. This course takes an actor-centered approach to the study of terrorism and political violence. It will address, among other things, the goals and origins of terrorist groups, the strategies that these non-state actors and governments use to combat each other, the effects that such groups can have upon the unfortunate countries in which they operate (as well as on other countries unfortunate enough to suffer from any 'spillovers') and the various ways that these conflicts eventually end. As we explore these issues, we will also acquire in-depth historical knowledge of the history of

terrorism in general and of a wide range of terrorist groups in particular.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

POLI3133. Contemporary Southeast Asian politics (6 credits)

This course is a survey of contemporary politics in Southeast Asia, with a focus on political transformations in the region since the Cold. War. The course provides a historically grounded approach to understand the formation of Southeast Asian states as well as the contemporary dynamics of political changes in the region. It starts by reviewing the impact of colonialism and historical trajectories in the region. We then delve deep into specific Southeast Asian countries, overviewing key political events and important leaders, tracing logics of political contestation, and providing a foundation to understand the structures of governments. After the specific country studies, we will focus on a few specific issues and challenges pertaining to the region, such as economic development, political regimes and governance, and regionalization and ASEAN.
Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3076 in 2018-19 are not allowed to take this course.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

POLI3134. Politics and security on the Korean Peninsula (6 credits)

This course discusses various political and security issues in the Korean Peninsula. The course begins with the ongoing Korean denuclearization negotiations involving two Koreas, the United States and China. Then it traces the origins of the Korean conflict back to the Korean liberation from Japanese colonial rule, the 1950-53 Korean War, and the emergence of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Then it examines how the two countries diverged politically, economically and culturally for the past several decades. Then it comes back to current issues: nuclear proliferation in the Korean Peninsula, prospects for Korean unification, and Korea's relations with its neighbors. Towards the end of the class, students will conduct a policy exercise simulating the denuclearization negotiations, which will help them develop policymaking skills.
Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3077 in 2018-19 are not allowed to take this course.
Assessment: 70% coursework, 30% examination.

POLI3135/ENVS3402. Qualitative data, social science methods and decision-making in environmental science (6 credits)

The course is designed to help students understand the interdisciplinary nature of environmental sciences and the approaches, methodologies and methods used by researchers. Students will engage in these approaches themselves, discuss benefits and limitations of various study designs, the philosophical underpinnings of studies, how they are related to concepts of "bias" and "subjectivity vs. objectivity", particularly as environmental science using approaches from both natural and social sciences. Students will also be expected to discuss implementation of the methods and methodologies covered and their challenges, the role of the researcher in environmental science, data collection and the data produced. In studying this course, the students are expected to develop critical thinking skills that will allow them to evaluate different approaches, methods and analyses used in environmental science and decision making in environmental science.

Pre-requisite: ENVS2002 Environmental data analysis or POLI2104 Research methods in politics and public administration
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

POLI3136. The politics of international law (6 credits)

How does international law affect international politics? When and why do states (and other actors) take international law seriously? The study of international relations often emphasises the rule of power. However, in this course, we will focus on the power of rules. The course has two aims. Firstly, to introduce students to the concept of international law - what it is, how it is made, and how it is enforced. Secondly, to analyse key issues in contemporary international relations, including human rights, the use of force, international criminal justice, and state secession. Taking specific cases, such as the NATO intervention in Libya, Russia's annexation of Crimea, and the civil war in Syria, we will examine the challenges of building an international order that is both just and stable. This course offers an introduction to international law to students of politics and international relations. No prior study of law or international law is required. Upon completion of the course, students will have a deep understanding of how international law works (and doesn't work) in the real world.
Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3001 in 2019-20 are not allowed to take this course.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

POLI3137. Nationalism: theories and practices (6 credits)

Why is nationalism such an appealing force in the world? What is the source of nationalism? What are the bases of a national identity? Is self-determination a justified cause for full statehood? This course is to provide students with an understanding of the major contemporary theories of nationalism, the most prominent explanations to the reemergence of nationalism across the world. In the first half of the course, we will discuss the conceptualization of understanding the social phenomena, examine the related key concepts, including nation, state, ethnicity, nationalism, and national identity, and provide students with the background knowledge and tools to analyze how social and political changes affect the future of nationalism. Students will be exposed to a wide range of literature in political science that engages in the theoretical debates. In the second half of the course, we will focus on the effects of nationalism on political identities, voting, patterns of political violence, and immigration policy, by exploring cases from around the world. Students will also have the opportunity to build perspectives to understand and examine how contemporary political changes are affected by nationalism and its variant forms through various assignments.
Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI3138. Institutional analysis for reform (6 credits)

Public policies and management do not take place in a vacuum. It is essential for public managers to possess a good awareness and understanding of their embedded political context. The course applies various institutional approaches to understand systematically the political-institutional structures and processes in which public policies and management are practiced and major reforms take place. The course will draw on theories and practices developed by both academics and practitioners as its learning resources. This is an advanced undergraduate–

level course. Students are strongly recommended to complete one of the following introductory courses (e.g., POLI2104, POLI2105, POLI2106, POLI2107, or POLI2108) before taking this course.
Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3024 in 2019-20 or 2020-21 are not allowed to take this course.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3139. The United Nations and global governance (6 credits)

This survey course is designed for third-year undergraduate students with a rigorous introduction to the theoretical perspectives and main debates regarding the largest international institution, the United Nations, with a specific focus on peace and security issues. The course is rooted in the International Relations scholarship regarding international organizations and addresses questions of i) What do international organizations actually do in global governance? ii) Can the United Nations promote international cooperation on peace and security issues? iii) Can theory inform us about the actual day-to-day of how international organizations work?
The course is structured in three parts. First, we will get settled into the course, understanding more about the International Relations debates and theoretical approaches about 'international organizations' and key UN bodies. Second, we tackle ongoing peace and security issues on the UN agenda, which affect global governance today. Third, we bring the theory back down to earth using an advanced simulation in the final section of the course.
Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI3140. International development (6 credits)

The developing world has been highly marginalized yet strategically critical in international politics throughout modern history. This course examines the intersection of international politics and development in three parts: the major development bottlenecks faced by developing countries; the role of powerful states and international institutions in the developing world; and several new frontiers in international development including the rise of "emerging donors", Chinese development finance, and the effects of pandemics on global development. The course will familiarize students with a wide range of political science, economics, history, and other social science research on global development. It will also introduce students to a diverse set of conceptual and methodological research approaches in political science and international relations.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3141. Punishment and political theory (6 credits)

One of the fundamental issues in political theory concerns when the vast coercive power of the state can be permissibly used against its citizens. There is arguably no greater use of state coercion than the practice of punishment. In this course, we will focus on three central questions. First, *why* should we punish criminal offenders? Second, *how* should we punish them? Third, *who* should be punished? The first question raises the following problem of punishment. It is typically thought to be wrong to inflict harm. Yet, when someone commits a crime, it also often thought we should harm him through punishment. We should ask then, why is it permissible to treat offenders differently to innocent persons? We will consider retributivist,

deterrence, and rehabilitation theories to address this problem of punishment.
Following this, we will examine which methods of punishment are permissible, and desirable. One commonly used form of punishment is incarceration. However, it is often argued to be ineffective, costly, and inhumane. As a result, there is an increasing interest in harnessing neuroscientific advances as alternative methods of punishing offenders. For example, drugs, deep brain stimulation, and brain computer interfaces all have the potential to reduce or control violent dispositions. Such neuropunishments are potentially more effective, less costly, and more humane alternatives to incarceration. Are these punishments permissible?
The final question addresses who should be punished. We will consider important questions concerning the permissibility punishing of innocent persons. Developments in neuroscience might help us predict who is likely to commit an offence in future, which raises the spectre of enabling 'prepunishment' before an offense is committed. Could this be morally justified?
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3142. Democratization (6 credits)

Since the 1970s, many countries in Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa have transformed from authoritarian to democratic regimes. Studies show that from 1975 to 2005, there was a threefold increase in the number of democratic countries. On the other hand, many newly democratized countries have reverted back to hybrid regime or full authoritarianism. Other countries have attempted but failed to democratize altogether. Why have some countries succeeded in democratization while others failed? Among those that succeeded, how did democratization occur? What are the crucial factors affecting democratic consolidation? For those that persist as hybrid regimes, what are their characteristics and what explains their endurance? This course will examine these issues critically through both generalized discussion of the structural, institutional, and societal factors affecting democratization as well as country-based studies.
Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI3077 in 2019-20 or 2020-21 are not allowed to take this course.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3143. Politics of global inequality (6 credits)

This class explores several questions on the causes and consequences of economic inequality. Why have some countries grown rich while others have not? Why are some societies more economically equal than others? Is material inequality the only type of inequality? Why does inequality even matter? We address these questions by drawing on insights from a variety of disciplines including economics, political science, psychology, sociology, and others to examine the sources of inequality and what can be done about it.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3144. Early Confucian political philosophy (6 credits)

This course provides a comprehensive analytical introduction to early (pre-Qin) Confucian political thought, which had significantly shaped the nature and development of politics and political culture in China till the collapse of Qing. The course selects themes and ideas primarily from four classical texts, *The Book of History*, *The Analects*, *Mencius*, and *Xunzi*. Topics

include the concept of Heaven; conceptions of human nature; virtues and the good life; the aims and methods of politics; the nature and justification of political authority; the political roles of the people, the ruler and the literati; distributive justice and social welfare; protests and dissents; the morality of war.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3145. Contemporary Confucian political philosophy (6 credits)

Confucianism as an ancient tradition of thought has fundamentally shaped Chinese culture and deeply influenced East Asian societies for many centuries. Today, many people in China and around the globe still explore the contemporary relevance of Confucianism, and contemporary Confucian political philosophy is emerging as a vibrant field of thought. The course studies how major contemporary works in Confucian political philosophy respond to modern political issues such as the state's promotion of the good life, democracy, individual freedom, human rights, and social justice.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3146. Making sense of economics (6 credits)

Economics shapes our world. Its theories and the assumptions underlying them inform policymaking in almost every sphere of life. The way economics is often understood, however, is that it is akin to a science. That is, there is only one correct answer and its best left to the experts. This course takes as its starting point the belief that every student of politics needs to learn some economics. Students need to be aware of different types of economic arguments and learn to engage critically with each argument to understand what makes the most sense in each circumstance, and in light of which political goals and moral values. The course will begin with an overview of the history of economic thought (e.g. how did we get here?). We will then focus on the dominant neo-classical school of economics, where we will learn key theories and the assumptions underlying them (e.g. textbook knowledge). We will proceed to learn about other schools of economic thought, including the Classical School, the Marxist School, the Developmentalist Tradition, the Austrian School, the (Neo-)Schumpeterian School, the Keynesian School, The Institutionalist School, and the Behaviouralist School. Finally, students will learn 'how to do' economics by applying the analytical insights from the different schools of economic thought to a range of real-world issues, including economic output, finance, inequality and poverty, work and unemployment, the environment, and the role of the state
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3147. Behavioural public policy (6 credits)

Behavioural science uses insights from economics and psychology to understand how people behave rather than how we would like them to behave. These findings carry important implications for the evaluation and design of public policy. In this course, students will first understand the complexity inherent in using scientific findings in the design and evaluation of public policy. Students will proceed to examine the theoretical foundations of behavioural public policy, with a particular focus on prospect theory. Using real-world examples taken from health, education, environment etc., students will engage with key insights that have emerged from behavioural science and think through how they may be relevant to public policy. Students

will then be encouraged to formulate their own thoughts regarding the ethics of behavioural public policy using Nudge Theory as a vehicle to do so. Finally, students will apply behavioural insights to both evaluate and design public policy.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3148. Data science in politics and public administration (6 credits)

Big data play increasingly important roles in politics and public administration. This course aims to help future PPA practitioners and researchers make sense of big data. It guides students to ask and answer the following questions: What are big data? With big data, what questions can policymakers and researchers ask and answer? How to collect and analyze big data? This course introduces students to state-of-the-art data science techniques. Topics include introductory programming for data science, data collection, data visualization, and machine learning. Upon completion, students are expected to get hands-on experience with data science and understand the promise, limitations, and pitfalls of big data in politics and public administration.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3149. Digital governance and regulation (6 credits)

Policymakers find themselves confronted with unprecedented challenges in the digital era. The digital transformation offers powerful tools to increase governance capacity and cut down inefficiency in public services, but it also presents fresh concerns over privacy, misinformation, and data security. Sticking to a generalist approach and using non-technical language, this course invites guest speakers from the forefront of practice to review the latest regulatory and governance implications of virtual and augmented reality, artificial intelligence, smart cities, blockchain technology, virtual assets and decentralized finance, and other areas of disruptive technological developments and the effectiveness of policy responses in Hong Kong and other locations. No prior knowledge of data science/machine learning or other technical background is required.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3150. Climate change policy, politics, and governance (6 credits)

Climate change is arguably one of the greatest challenges facing our generation. Its impacts will be massive, widespread, unpredictable, and inequitably distributed. Solving it requires global collective actions and a profound transformation of the economy, affecting energy, transportation, food, and industrial sectors among others. This course focuses on the governance of the transformation by analyzing climate change policy and politics at sub-national, national, and international levels. It consists of three sections. The first section centers on the problem. It will review scientific evidence on the causes and impacts of climate change and analyze the economic roots of the issue. The second section shifts to the politics. It will answer the question of why climate change is politically difficult to solve. It will investigate the struggles in international cooperation and examine the interplays of different actors and interest groups in shaping the preferences of the mass public and elites. The third section launches into policy solutions. It will survey major policy options that aim to mitigate or adapt to the impacts of climate change, and evaluate their efficacy, efficiency, political viability, and

ethical implications. It will also highlight the multi-level nature of climate governance by examining the interactions among efforts from nations, states/provinces, cities, organizations, and individuals.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3151. Business, society, and public policy (6 credits)

Business and government are interdependent. Business is the engine of the economy, but at the same time it creates many social problems such as inequities and environmental degradation. Many people call for government regulations to correct these problems, but many others worry that inefficient public intervention may stymie innovation and economic progress. And their relationship keeps evolving. Increasingly, society directly calls upon business to take the lead to address grand challenges such as climate change, poverty, discrimination, and political disenfranchisement. Government and business collaboration also becomes more common in areas such as infrastructure development and disease epidemics. This course will take a close look at the intricate and mutually dependent relationship between business and government. We will start by reviewing the ideas of markets and firms, focusing on the concepts of property rights and transaction cost. We will examine cases of market failure and government intervention to correct them. After establishing the economic basis for public intervention, we will study how business can shape government regulations by informing and influencing the public policy process through various tactics such as political contribution, lobbying, and information campaign. We then will consider the roles of business in society, discussing issues of corporate social responsibility, private politics, and social entrepreneurship. Lastly, we will explore scenarios of collaboration between government and business to achieve certain social or economic goals.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3152. Democratic theory (6 credits)

Democracy occupies a preeminent place in political theory and practice today, and it is widely regarded as essential to political legitimacy and serves as the rallying cry for political movements across the globe. Democracy was derided by Plato as inferior to other forms of government, and the history of modern democracy is a concatenation of events replete with conflicts and tensions—from populism and governing incompetence to more sustained theoretical challenges. Recently, we have also seen a proliferation of theoretical imaginaries of democracy, which challenges the singular notion of liberal democratic order. This course guides you through important debates in democratic theory and aims to equip you with concepts, vocabularies, theories, and critical thinking skills necessary for engaging with democratic thought and practice in our global age. More specifically, we will explore such topics as justifications of democracy, different types of democracy, democracy in different cultural communities, democracy's relationship to social justice, populism, capitalism, and globalization.
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

POLI3153. Diversity and equity in public administration: A comparative perspective (6 credits)

Diversity and equity as controversial concepts in public administration can mean differently in different institutional and national contexts. As the fourth pillar of public administration, along with economy, efficiency, and effectiveness, social equity along with its achievement in the diverse societies requires comprehensive examination in different context. This course aims to understand the issues of diversity and equity and how to address them in public administration in both western and nonwestern contexts. It is divided into three parts. Part I will introduce the major theoretical origins of diversity and equity in public administration. Part II will discuss the issues of diversity and equity in the classic western contexts and the role of governments in addressing them. Part III will examine the diversity and equity issues in public administration of nonwestern contexts especially in China. Students are expected to use the relevant theories and real-world practice to discuss the administrative and policy instruments to address diversity and equity issues in different contexts.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3154. Liberalism vs. identity politics

Liberalism aspires to the greatest possible freedom constrained only by a system of mutually compatible individual rights and the intrinsic value of individuals. Thus its core value is freedom, and its outlook individualist. Recently liberalism has been challenged by a left-leaning "identity politics" that gives precedence to groups (especially understood in terms of race, religion, and sex/"gender") over individuals; to "safe spaces" and the protection against alleged "psychological harms" and "offense" over freedom of speech; and to equality of outcome over equality of opportunity. The latter point is due to the fact that "identity politics" can only conceive of significant statistical group differences in terms of achievements in certain fields as the result of one group "discriminating" against the other instead of as the natural effect of culturally (let alone biologically) mediated differences in average preferences and abilities playing themselves out in a free society. This course will critically evaluate the relative philosophical, moral, and political merits of liberalism as compared to "identity politics."
Assessment: 50 % Coursework, 50 % Examination

POLI3155. AI ethics and safety: a social sciences introduction (6 credits)

Artificial Intelligence is one of the biggest catalysts of social transformation in our era. As AI-powered applications rapidly take over the core expressions of human creativity, regulators and policymakers struggle to come to grasp with the ethical and safety challenges surrounding the technology. The course prepares social sciences students for these challenges and adopts a comparative approach to topics ranging from responsible innovation and human-centered design to algorithmic bias and explainability. The course is particularly designed for social sciences students who wish to understand the social, political, and policy aspects of AI and, by adhering to a generalist language, requires no exposure to AI as a technical subject. To provide up-to-date information on the career opportunities for people who specialize in AI safety and ethical AI in different industries, the course brings in practitioners from across the Asia Pacific as guest speakers.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3156. Elite politics in China (6 credits)

Crucial to any analysis of China's political trajectory is an understanding of the kind of leadership that governs the country. Throughout the history of the People's Republic of China (PRC), changes in the composition of the political elite have often reflected — and sometimes heralded — broader sociopolitical, economic, technological, and ideological transformations. This course provides students with a broad introduction to Chinese leadership. Topics to be covered include the Chinese leadership structure, the characteristics of the party-state, the dynamics between individuals and institutions, the channels of elite recruitment, the educational and occupational characteristics of Chinese officials, the relationship between various elite groups (political, economic, and military), and factional politics.

These topics are not just essential to the study of China but are also profoundly relevant to the social sciences in general. No prior study of Chinese leadership is required, although those who have training in Chinese culture, politics, and history are most welcome. Upon completing the course, students will have developed an analytical framework for understanding Chinese leadership politics and its impact on domestic governance. They will also have the tools to compare elite competition and decision-making in China with other countries.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination

POLI3157. European politics (6 credits)

This course will introduce students to the government and politics of Europe. Particular attention will be given to the relationships between the largest European countries, the European Union, and the rest of the world. We will examine European policies in relation to a range of important contemporary issues including policies relating to international trade, climate change, Artificial Intelligence and international security. In doing so, we aim to understand the historical and recent drivers of these policies. The course will draw on theories and methods from modern political science and international relations to understand these phenomena. Throughout the course, an institutionalist perspective will be taken. It will examine the main formal and informal institutions at the national and international levels, as well as the main actors that shape policy outcomes.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

POLI3158. Globalization, automation, and labor (6 credits)

This course examines the prominent sources of labor precarity and how workers – across different institutional settings – respond to these threats. The course covers phenomena such as workplace technological change/automation, international trade, green transition, as well as their consequences, including growing inequality, the revival of the radical right, protectionism, and demand for redistributive policies.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3159. Public administration and the public (6 credits)

Public administration and the public interact with each other across all stages of the policy

process, from policymaking to implementation to evaluation. As clients or customers, the public receives benefits or services from public organizations. As participants or co-producers, they also engage in government decision-making and service delivery. Furthermore, as litigants, they litigate claims or complaints against government agencies or employees. Given the multiple interfaces between the administrative state and the public, along with the profound ramifications of these interactions on each other, citizen-state interactions have become central to both theories and practices in the study of public administration.
We can pose several questions about various phenomena in citizen-administration interactions. When it comes to public participation, for example, we can ask: Why and how do citizens participate in policy design, service delivery, and program evaluation? Is public participation always good? What are the impacts of public participation on governmental outputs and outcomes? How can public managers effectively design public participation to achieve better outcomes? These kinds of normative, theoretical, and practical questions can also be raised in other realms of citizen-state interactions, such as citizen satisfaction, administrative burden, e-government, and adjudication.
This course provides students with opportunities to address these questions from managerial, political, and legal perspectives. By balancing theoretical insights with practical applications, it emphasizes a holistic understanding of citizen-state interactions. The core of this course is to explore existing concepts, theories, and practices related to citizen-administration interactions and to distill new ones from real-world cases.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3160/COMP3160. Web3.0 for social impact: an innovative and experiential venture (6 credits)

Jointly offered by the Department of Politics and Public Administration and the School of Computing and Data Science, this course brings social science, computer science, AI & data science students together to learn how significant social impact can be realized through Web 3.0-powered innovation and entrepreneurship. The first section of the course offers an accessible introduction to the underlying technologies of Web 3.0, followed by an overview of local and overseas cases, where they are being leveraged in the promotion of sustainability, economic growth, community well-being, and effective governance. The second section tackles more practical issues, such as product design, financial and social valuation, fundraising, and project management. To gain direct insights into these issues from the forefront of practice, we will conduct a series of thematic workshops led by practitioners within the Web 3.0 community, including developers, incubators, investors, and 2 policymakers. The course concludes with project presentations to a panel of impact investors and relevant domain experts. The course may include a fully sponsored overseas field trip. Students must be available to travel during the reading week to qualify for enrolment.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3161. E-Government: Frameworks, instruments, and applications (6 credits)

This course is designed to introduce students to the applications of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to government and public services. In this course, students will identify the fundamental constructs of e-government, different instruments of e-government, and discuss its major applications in the digitalization of public services that both

scholars and public administrators are concentrating on. By taking this course, students are expected to have general understanding of the components, applications, and major issues of e-government and digital services, which help develop the skills to analyze digital transformations in public services.

This course covers the essential elements of E-Government and digital public services, such as definition and framework of e-government and e-governance, data governance, administrative burden & discretion affected by e-government, interaction between public, private, and civil society in e-governance, and applications of e-government via social media, open government initiatives, smart cities, big data, and applications of e-government to address information security and privacy, emergency management, and digital divide. Students will be expected to demonstrate their research identities and apply their acquired knowledge from this course to critically analyze extant research pieces on issues of public administration in a digital era.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3162. China: A multi-perspective inquiry (6 credits)

This course offers a comprehensive overview of China from various perspectives. Through an interdisciplinary approach, we will explore significant and complex issues related to both China's past and present. Key topics include China's historical development, revolutionary history, cultural traditions, formal political structure, informal politics, and market-oriented economic reforms. Central themes throughout the course encompass China's cultural identity, ethnicity, state-society relations, and the continuities and changes in China's socio-political values. We will also examine China's role in the global order. The primary goal of this course is to equip students with a foundational understanding of China's historical and contemporary contexts. By the end of the course, students will have gained insights into how China's historical legacy shapes its modern society and how contemporary political and economic developments are transforming the country.
Not for students who have passed in GLAS2140, or have already enrolled in this course.
Not for students who have passed in SINO1003, or have already enrolled in this course.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3163. Investigating China: Issues and critiques (6 credits)

This course examines and unravels the key features and outcomes of China's experiences in reforms and development. As a pedagogical innovation, we will employ the internationally popular "Research-Informed Teaching" approach in our study of a broad spectrum of issues in contemporary China. The instructor and the invited distinguished guest speakers from different research backgrounds will introduce cutting-edge research in their respective areas of China studies. Students will have the valuable opportunity to attend lecture-combined seminars to learn and discuss major ongoing issues in China with leading experts. The themes covered in the course generally focus on political economy and extend to disciplines such as sociology, history, and geography. The course instructor will also deliver introductory lectures on qualitative and quantitative research methods, providing hands-on training of conducting social science research.
At the beginning of the semester, students are encouraged to form project groups and align their research topics with the speakers' ongoing projects. This approach offers students the

precious opportunity to learn from each other and participate in real academic research, gaining first-hand training experience. Groups will conduct research together, present their findings at the end of the semester, and produce research outputs that best display their results, such as papers, websites, or posters. Originality and creativity are highly encouraged and valued in this course.
Not for students who have passed in SINO2003, or have already enrolled in this course.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI3164. International relations of the Middle East and North Africa (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the international politics of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Topics covered include: the role of oil, the making of ideologies such as nationalism or Islamic Fundamentalism, the lack of socioeconomic development, the Arab-Israeli conflict. Similar to other regions of the global south, one of the key problems when studying MENA is the issue of autonomy vs. outside determination. To what degree were the peoples of the region able to shape their own history? What kind of states, economies and legitimizing ideologies were formed over the complicated and often violent contemporary history of the region? What in this history is similar and what is unique when compared to the developmental experiences of other parts of the world?
Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

POLI3165. Analyzing international relations data (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the basic tools and approaches used to study international relations using empirical methods. We begin by exploring how political scientists use data and evidence to ask and answer questions about the world. The course covers how we gather information, design research, and draw conclusions about international politics. Students will learn about different strategies used to make sense of complex political events and behaviors, including experiments, statistical analysis, and case studies. This course lays the groundwork for further study in research methods and prepares students to think critically about how we learn what we know in international relations.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination

POLI3166. International institutions and cooperation (6 credits)

Why do states cooperate and what is the role of international organizations in international cooperation? This course focuses on the role and development of international organizations in world politics. It is required that students complete POLI2106 or the equivalent before taking this course. This course delves into the dynamic changes occurring within international organizations and how these shifts impact the formation, termination, and overall effectiveness of international organizations both theoretically and empirically. In the final portion of the course, we will discuss how features of international organizations are applied to military alliances, United Nations, NPT, and WTO.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination

POLI3167. Nuclear politics (6 credits)

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to the politics and theories related to the proliferation of nuclear weapons, as well as the role of nuclear energy and technology. Core topics of this course include the basics of nuclear weapons, nuclear strategies, and deterrence theory. Students will examine these issues within historical and theoretical frameworks, drawing on both conceptual and empirical perspectives to better understand the evolution of nuclear politics and strategy.

This course also examines the development of nuclear dynamics across both the Cold War and post–Cold War eras. Numerous contemporary international crises remain closely tied to nuclear-related concerns, including North Korea's nuclear crisis in the early 1990s, the 1998 nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan, and the implications of nuclear weapons in the ongoing Russia–Ukraine conflict.

Throughout the semester, students will engage with key academic literature in political science and history, focusing on nuclear politics and international security. Students will engage in various academic activities, including reading, critiquing, presenting, and debating scholarship from leading journals. Especially, to understand the actual case more deeply, students are required to actively participate in simulation activities – the Model UNSC – to prevent a state's proliferation Moreover, students will be required to take two in-class exams for a deeper understanding and to complete one policy paper during the semester.

It is recommended (though not mandatory and still students can attend the course without permission) for students to take POLI2106 Introduction to International Relations before taking this course.
Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination

POLI4110. Advanced seminar I (6 credits)

This is a discussion-based course for senior year students with strong academic interest in specialized and in-depth study of one or more topics in a small class setting. The topical focus of the seminar will depend on the area specialty of the instructor. Students are expected to read intensively and contribute fruitfully to seminar discussions.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI4111. Advanced seminar II (6 credits)

This is a discussion-based course for senior year students with strong academic interest in specialized and in-depth study of one or more topics in a small class setting. The topical focus of the seminar will depend on the area specialty of the instructor. Students are expected to read intensively and contribute fruitfully to seminar discussions.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI4112. Advanced seminar III (6 credits)

This is a discussion-based course for senior year students with strong academic interest in specialized and in-depth study of one or more topics in a small class setting. The topical focus of the seminar will depend on the area specialty of the instructor. Students are expected to read intensively and contribute fruitfully to seminar discussions.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI4113. Advanced seminar IV (6 credits)

This is a discussion-based course for senior year students with strong academic interest in specialized and in-depth study of one or more topics in a small class setting. The topical focus of the seminar will depend on the area specialty of the instructor. Students are expected to read intensively and contribute fruitfully to seminar discussions.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI4114. Advanced seminar in international politics (6 credits)

This seminar exposes students to the canon and cutting edge of theory and research in international politics. We will cover core topics, such as strategy, signaling, and domestic-international dynamics. The core topics not only represent the central coordinates of International Relations (IR), but also make deeper connections to other subfields such as Comparative Politics and Political Economy, and to other social sciences such as Sociology and Economics. Beyond the core topics, we will also cover topics of research interest to students, as chosen by students. This seminar is for students with strong academic interest in specialized and in-depth study in a small class setting. Students are expected to read intensively and contribute fruitfully to seminar discussions.
Pre-requisites: POLI2104 Research methods in politics and public administration, and one PPA course in international politics.
Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI4110 in 2020-21 are not allowed take this course.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI4115. Advanced Seminar on strategy and politics (6 credits)

This is an advanced seminar that studies strategy and strategic thinking. It analyses strategies from both theoretical and historical perspectives, using both real-world cases and analytical models, applied across both international and domestic politics. It also covers institutional strategies and the grand strategy of great powers. This seminar is for advanced students with strong academic interest in specialized and in-depth study in a small class setting. Students are expected to read intensively and contribute fruitfully to seminar discussions.
Pre-requisites: POLI2104 Research methods in politics and public administration
Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI4111 in 2021-22 are not allowed take this course.
Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI4116. International Relations field seminar (6 credits)

This course provides in-depth coverage of the field of International Relations with a focus on

major theoretical traditions. Weekly course meetings are discussion-based and cover seminal and recent advances in international relations theories and evidence. Students will gain foundational knowledge of the evolving field of International Relations and use this to develop their research interests. The course is most suitable for graduate-level students and advanced undergraduate students potentially interested in pursuing future studies or research related to International Relations and other fields in Political Science.
Pre-requisite: POLI2106 Introduction to international relations
Assessment: 100% coursework.

ECON2276. State , law and the economy (6 credits)

Please refer to the Faculty of Business and Economics website for course description.

EUST3010. European political and economic institutions and processes (6 credits)

Please refer to the European Studies Programme website for course description.

Law

Compulsory Courses

LLAW2001. Constitutional law (6 credits)

Constitutional law is a core component of a legal system. It also constitutes the foundation of a legal system, because it stipulates what are the sources of law in the legal system and how the law is made; it establishes, empowers and constrains the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government; and it regulates the relationship between these organs of government as well as the relationship between the government and the people. From the perspective of the people, constitutional law guarantees and protects their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In Hong Kong, constitutional law also performs the important function of regulating the relationship between Hong Kong as a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Central Government Authorities of the PRC. Constitutional law in Hong Kong is therefore the legal foundation of 'One Country, Two Systems'. It is also an area of the law which is often the focus of public and media attention. Constitutional law cases and controversies often appear in the Hong Kong press as frontpage news stories. The outcomes of constitutional litigation sometimes not only change the lives of the parties to the case, but also have wide and deep impact on the Hong Kong community and its public and social policies, or the political relationship between Hong Kong and mainland China.

Constitutional law is closely related to politics, political philosophy and history. In students' previous legal studies, they have already come across aspects of constitutional history and constitutional theory (e.g. in the Law and Society course), as well as some constitutional controversies in Hong Kong (e.g. in the Legal System course). We hope that this course on constitutional law will provide for students the opportunity to study the subject more

systematically and intensively. However, as it is only a one-semester course, it can do no more than opening the door for students, so that students who are interested in a broader and deeper understanding of the subject may acquire a solid foundation for their future studies in this interesting, exciting and challenging domain of public law.
Assessment: 30% take home assignment, 70% examination.

LLAW3001. Introduction to legal theory (6 credits)

This course encourages critical reflections on the nature of law, the central issues of jurisprudence and the concepts and techniques used in the operation of legal systems. Topics to be covered may include some of the following: assessing the relationship between law, politics and morality; natural law; legal positivism; theories of justice; adjudication and legal reasoning; legal realism; feminist jurisprudence; sociological jurisprudence.
Assessment: 15% class participation, 35% essay, 50% examination.

LLAW3093. Administrative law (6 credits)

The course will introduce Hong Kong's law on judicial review of administrative action. Topics that may be covered in any particular year include: theories of administrative decision-making, grounds of judicial review (errors of law and fact, procedural impropriety, errors in the exercise of discretion, legitimate expectations), the public-private divide, the practical aspects of bringing an action for judicial review, and non-curial means of control and scrutiny of administration action (Ombudsman, Administrative appeals, public enquiries). The course will guide students on how to apply the law in factual scenarios and encourage students to reflect upon various theoretical issues in Administrative law.
Pre-requisite: Subject to special approval by the course coordinator, students taking this course must have completed LLAW 2001 Constitutional law (or its equivalent).
Assessment: 50% mid-term assessment, 50% examination

LLAW3203. Guided research (6 credits)

This course is about legal scholarship. Students will acquire the skills of effective legal writing and research (including the choosing of research topic; different research methodology/techniques; framing of and responding to critical legal argument;
how to avoid plagiarism) through producing a research paper under the supervision of a faculty member and participating in a series of seminar sessions. Learning activities during the meeting seminars will consist of discussing the goals and challenges of legal research and scholarship, presenting one's own research topic/idea, and constructive engagement with others about their research.

First, students are responsible for finding a faculty member who is willing to supervise the students on their research projects. Different faculty members have different considerations and requirements on the decision to supervise a student, but it is typically expected that the student when approaching the faculty member should have a reasonably viable research topic/proposal that falls into the research/teaching interest of the proposed supervisor. Students are strongly encouraged to secure the consent of their desired supervisor prior to the end of the add/drop period. Failure to do so run the risk of not being able to find a supervisor and/or

complete the required paper within the time constraint of a semester – and the consequential failure of the course. On the flip side, students may, if approved by the their respective supervisors, begin their supervised research and writing prior to the formal registration of the course (e.g., in the presiding summer vacation prior to registration in Semester 1, or in Semester 1 prior to registration in Semester 2).

Second, as reflected in the 10% classwork mark, the workshop meeting sessions are integral to the educational objectives of this course. Failure to regularly attend and participate in the meeting sessions will result in averse deduction in the 10% classwork mark, including a zero score. Conflicting schedule with other classes/tutorials, overseas exchange, internship etc. are not acceptable reasons for absence, so please plan accordingly when making your course selection.

Third, the expected word count of the research paper is between 6000 to 8000 words. To qualify for a Designated Research Course credit, the word count of the paper cannot be less than 5000 words.
Assessment:90% research paper, 10% classwork