

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 科目簡介

COURSES FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

POL101 Introduction to Political Science (3 credits)

(Restriction(s): Students are not allowed to take both this course and CUS213 Culture, Power and Government)

This course is a general survey of the field of political science. Students are not required to have any background in the discipline. The course is designed to introduce some basic concepts and approaches in political science, and to link them to current affairs. It provides the foundation for future studies in the field.

POL111 Ecology, the Environment and Society (3 credits)

(GED121)

In general, this course examines relationships between the environment and us as human beings. In particular, it introduces students to (1) the basic science of environmental issues, (2) the personal, political and societal behaviours contributing to those issues, and (3) some of the ways in which we all can contribute to environmentally-sustainable development.

POL160 Greater China: Identity and Interdependence (3 credits)

(GEC360)

This course compares the economic, societal and political development of the four regions of Greater China – Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau. Although the forces of globalisation have drawn these different parts of Greater China ever closer together, they remain separate and distinctive. Their differences are reflected in culture, society, values and norms, and political systems. This course examines the causal factors that have shaped the different destinies of Greater China as well as the forces that are pulling them together.

The concept of Greater China will be analysed and the other three regions' relationships with the Mainland China will be examined. The focus will be put on the period of the last sixty years. During this period, the four regions have had their different paths of modernization, yet at the same time we witness increasingly significant interactions among the four regions. Based on the concept of Greater China, theoretical issues such as the explanatory powers of culture and ethnicity versus economic development and modernization are also considered.

POL201 Government and Politics of Contemporary China (3 credits)

This course focuses on the study of key issues affecting China today, including China's centre-provincial relations, rural reform, urban reform, environmental problems, dissent and the rule of law, ethnic politics in Tibet and Xinjiang, "One Country-Two Systems," and the Taiwan question.

POL202 Asia Pacific Today (3 credits)

This course focuses on the study of the Asia-Pacific region, principally Northeast and Southeast Asian countries, paying particular attention to the development of their political systems, strategies of economic growth, the impact of changes in the role of population structure, women, ethnicity and education on these societies, and their ability to deal with issues of foreign powers, regional cooperation, and crises.

POL203 International Politics (3 credits)

This course focuses on the study of the themes and theories of international relations; inter-state relations in the Cold War and post-Cold War periods; issues of war and peace; terrorism and weapons of mass destruction; the United Nations and international organisations; globalisation; third world development and the north-south gap; and the environment.

POL204 International Law (3 credits)

The course examines some of the fundamental concepts of international law which demonstrate its centrality to international politics. The course studies how international law relates to sovereignty, territory, human rights and the use of force. Specialist legal knowledge is not a prerequisite for this course.

POL205 Global Governance (3 credits)

This course explores the growing importance of international organisations. With the rise of transnational issues, the world community has seen seeking greater global cooperation through international regimes. This course studies how international organisations tackle issues such as terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, human rights violations, genocide, poverty, fair trade, and environmental protection.

POL208 Public Policy: Values and Processes (3 credits)

This course is a basic introduction to the public policy-making process and the values underpinning it. It will first touch on the uses of public policy. Then, various aspects of policy-making will be covered: stages of public policy-making and policy network, the politics of policy-making and budgeting, and bureaucratic neutrality and political accountability.

POL210 Comparative Politics (3 credits)

(Prerequisite(s): (a) POL101 Introduction to Political Science or (b) CUS213 Culture, Power and Government)

The course covers three main themes in the field: political development, political economy, and culture and identity politics. Specific topics include democratisation, constitutional choices for new democracies, varieties of capitalism, strategies for economic reforms, challenges of sustainable development, causes of the “clash of civilisations”, and ethnic conflicts.

POL213 Political Psychology and Behaviour (3 credits)

Political psychology is, at the most general level, an application of what is known about human psychology to the study of politics. This course draws on a diverse set of psychological theories such as personality, developmental psychology, cognitive psychology, and intergroup interaction; and it addresses political phenomena such as leadership, mass political behaviour, civic education, and international conflict.

POL214 Government and Politics of Hong Kong (3 credits)

This course is an introductory course on the basic political institutions and the evolving political system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). The fundamentals of the Basic Law and its impacts on the political life of the HKSAR will also be examined. This course explores the behavioural and cultural aspects of Hong Kong politics, such as the changing political culture and pattern of political participation, and the problems that the HKSAR government encounters.

POL215 Taiwan: Society and Politics (3 credits)

The course acquaints students with the social and political development of Taiwan since 1949. The history of Japanese colonial legacy is introduced. It then goes on to analyse the ideology and party structure of the Kuomintang, the dynamics of economic development, societal development and political change. Finally the problem of the cross-straits relationship will be explored.

POL216 American Foreign Policy (3 credits)

This course is designed to acquaint students with the constitutional, institutional, and political frameworks within which contemporary foreign policies of the United States are formulated and executed. The course examines the role that global issues play in contemporary American foreign policy, illustrates the complexities and difficulties faced by U.S. decision makers as they formulate and implement foreign policy, and helps students understand why the United States behaves the way it does, for good and sometimes for ill, in world affairs.

**POL 217 Modern Political Ideologies (3 credits)
(GEB217)**

The course intends to give students a general introduction of the most important currents in political ideas or thought in the contemporary world. Selected themes in each current of thought will be briefly discussed and applied to the analysis of real world situations both internationally and in Hong Kong/China.

POL218 War and Peace (3 credits)

This course is intended to introduce issues of conflict and the use of force that are at the forefront of debates in the media and amongst policy-makers and opinion leaders in international politics. In the twentieth century, two 'world wars', a 'cold war' and numerous 'hot' regional and internal conflicts occurred, while this century has seen a heightened focus on terrorism and nuclear threats. This means that the issues of war and how to bring peace and stability remain at the centre of contemporary international politics.

**POL225 Hong Kong Civil Service (3 credits)
(GEB225)**

The course analyses the civil service system of the Hong Kong SAR, and the societal and political impacts on civil service management structures. It examines the institutions, management processes, and major issues confronting the civil service system. A brief introduction to the civil service systems of mainland China, the United Kingdom and the United States will also be provided in the later stage of lectures to further enhance students' understanding of important international public personnel systems. If possible, guest talks by former Hong Kong senior civil servants will be arranged to provide students with insights into the current operation and practices of the system in post-handover Hong Kong. This course will benefit students who are planning to pursue their career in the government or other public sectors after graduation.

**POL227 Law and Governance (3 credits)
(GEB227)**

This course attempts to cultivate students' understanding of the core issues and debates about government, law, society, and their inter-relationship, particularly in the context of Hong Kong. At the same time, this course helps students to apply theories to analyze practical issues, think laterally, engage in community and public affairs, and present arguments intelligently and persuasively. These skills are essential to students in their

future careers, particularly in the public sector.

POL261 Ethnicity and Nationalism (3 credits)
(GEC361)

A central goal of liberal arts education is to enable students to acquire international awareness and become a citizen of the world community, and political, social and cultural movements rooted in conceptions of ethnicity or nationhood have undeniably shaped, and are continuously shaping, the modern world that we live in. This course focuses on the role of ethnic communities and nations within the domestic politics of sovereign states. It will introduce students to concepts and definitions of ethnicity and nationalism, and explore the historical and contemporary basis for their development and significance. It will also examine some exemplar research that will guide us to understand these phenomena better. Conflicts generated by nationalist demands for political recognition, and how states deal with them, will be discussed. This course will conclude with an investigation into the controversial issue of intervention by other states and international organisations in civil wars within sovereign states.

POL301 Policy-making, Collective Action and Public Choice (3 credits)

(Prerequisite(s): POL101 Introduction to Political Science)

This course discusses public choice theory of policy-making and its limitations. It examines the logic and foundation of actions of those individuals and groups involved in the policy-making process: voting and party competition, interest groups and collective action, bureaucracy and policy-making, coalition and government formation.

POL303 Global Environmental Politics (3 credits)

This course introduces students to profound changes in both world politics and ecology, requiring a rethinking about life on Earth and existing governance systems. The environment, in addition to being a source of vital yet dwindling natural resources, has increasingly become a depository for massive amounts of human waste and pollution. This poses a threat to human well-being and perhaps even long-term survival, not to mention affecting the vitality of biospheres and other species. Environmental problems like stratospheric ozone-layer depletion, global warming, water scarcity and over-fishing are even becoming threats to national security. This course examines the response of the international community to these and related challenges.

POL304 Chinese Politics in the Reform Era (3 credits)

With several courses in the BSocSc programme studying the economic reform in China, this course focuses on the political aspects of the reform and puts special emphasis on the effect of the reform measures and open-door policies initiated by Deng Xiaoping. Changes in both the state and society in the last two decades will be studied. Reform measures taken by the state and reactions from the society are the two major lines of investigation.

POL305 China in World Politics (3 credits)

This is a course on the patterns and dynamics of China's foreign policy. This new century has witnessed China's rising international status in the global arena. Determined to be an important player in a post-Cold War world, China has been carrying out a pragmatic foreign policy to ensure a favourable environment for its economic growth. China's relations with all the major powers as well as its neighbouring countries are discussed in this course.

POL307 APEC and Regional Co-operation (3 credits)

This course examines the development of regionalism and regionalization and assesses in a comparative context the Asian Pacific region's efforts to promote regional cooperation and integration, primarily through the medium of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

POL308 Selected Issues in Asian Pacific Governance (3 credits)

This course examines one selected issue (or two related issues) salient to the Asian Pacific region as a whole. A single issue is chosen for a comparative and comprehensive study so as to allow students to undertake more focused and advanced scrutiny of the issue, which may have social, political, economic and strategic importance for the whole region. Students are expected to be broadly familiar with the major political and economic characteristics of the Asian Pacific region in order to appreciate this course. The chosen topic will be issued before each term by the subject teacher.

**POL309 Current Issues in International Politics (renamed from 2009-2010)/
Selected Issues in International Political and Legal Affairs
(in 2008-2009 or before) (3 credits)**

This course is intended to introduce current issues that are at the forefront of debate in the media and amongst opinion leaders in international politics. One issue (or possibly two issues) will be discussed in depth so that these pressing concerns in contemporary international affairs can be related to the broader background of international political theories. Potential topics include: The Politics of Food; Terrorism; The Politics of Financial Crises; Politics of Activism; Energy and Politics; Soft Power.

POL317 One Country, Two Systems: Central-Hong Kong SAR Relationships (3 credits)

The course equips students with a broader and deeper understanding on the increasingly intimate and complicated relationships between Chinese mainland in general, and the Central government in Beijing in particular, and Hong Kong. The course will be divided into two parts: the first part deals with theories that look at the central-local relationships in general and the second part addresses the concrete issues that emerge in the post-handover political scene in Hong Kong in the context of the PRC Central government and Hong Kong SAR relationships.

POL318 Selected Issues in Environmental Studies (3 credits)

This course provides an opportunity for students to study and discuss topical and important selected issues in environmental studies. The chosen topic will be issued before each term by the subject teacher.

POL319 International Politics of Northeast Asia (3 credits)

This course focuses on the study of Northeast Asia as a region, discusses the political uses and effects of history, and examines the rise of China, Japan-US security cooperation, regional hotspots such as Taiwan and South Korea, diversity of cooperative security and economic institutions involving Northeast Asian states, and political development and regionalism.

POL320 International Politics of Southeast Asia (3 credits)

This course focuses on relations among the states of post-World War II Southeast Asia, and between Southeast Asia and the United States, India, Russia, Europe, Australia, Japan and China; traditional and non-traditional security issues on post-Cold war Southeast Asia; Southeast Asian regionalism and economic cooperation; and the impact of the events of September 11, 2001 on the region.