

Lingnan University  
Department of Economics  
Term 2, AY2022-23

<b>Course Title</b>	:	Seminar in Social and Public Policy Issues
<b>Course Code</b>	:	SSC3102
<b>Recommended Study Year</b>	:	3 and 4
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	:	3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	:	Sectional approach
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	:	3 hours per week
<b>Category in Major Prog.</b>	:	SPPS Stream (Required Course)
<b>Discipline</b>	:	Social Sciences
<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Co-requisite(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Exclusion(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b>	:	N/A

### **Brief Course Description**

This seminar-based course is designed for students opting for the Social and Public Policy Studies stream. A select number of topics in social and public policy will be introduced and discussed in class (e.g. employment, social welfare, education, environmental, population and health policies). Faculty members and guest speakers will share with students their current research interests and knowledge in the field. Through seminar discussions and presentations, students will be familiarised with how policy analysis is done by researchers, academics and practising professionals, and how these selected issues impact and relate to society and individuals. Weekly seminars will provide an opportunity for students to raise questions and to participate in discussions, thereby deepening their understanding of issues involved in social and public policy. Students will get involved in research activities organised by the instructor in charge of the course to engage with leading professors and practitioners for reflecting upon major policy making and implementation issues.

### **Aims**

This course aims to:

1. deepen students' understanding of social and public policy issues;
2. equip students with knowledge in how policy analysis is 'done'; and
3. sharpen their sensibility and awareness of issues involved in social and public policy formation, evaluation and impact.

### **Learning Outcomes (LOs)**

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

1. recall and interpret issues in selected topics in social and public policy;
2. critically evaluate social and public policy verbally and in writing;
3. identify and evaluate key concepts, perspectives and issues in selected topics in policy analysis; and

- engage effectively in working as teams through collaborative learning activities when tasked to conduct comparative analysis of social / public policy issues in Greater China.

### Teaching Method

During weekly sessions students will be introduced to the concepts, perspectives and issues related to the selected topics in policy analysis. Students will engage in discussions, presentations, in-class and on-line tasks to deepen their understanding of the selected topics. Case Studies and Group Presentation will be conducted in examining critical issues of managing rapid socio-economic changes and policy responses. For details of Case Studies, please refer to the separate course outline.

### Measurement of Learning Outcomes

- In seminar discussions, students will give an oral presentation on a given topic to demonstrate their understanding of key ideas and concepts in social and public policy. They will be asked to present their review in a logical and analytical manner (LOs 1, 2).
- Students' participation in weekly seminar discussions will be assessed. Students are required to critically evaluate current social and public policy issues. They are encouraged to think critically and give constructive comments to peers' opinions and presentations (LOs 1-3).
- Students will reflect upon their learning experience after attending selected seminars / research events (LOs 1-3)
- Students will engage in case studies and group presentation examining major issues related to managing rapid socio-economic changes and policy responses and organize presentations of their analysis (LOs 1-3).
- Based upon their group research projects, students will write policy review / press release and reflective journal to demonstrate their understanding policy issues and policy analysis (LOs 1-3).

### Assessment

Continuous assessment: 100%	(policy review & press release	– 30%,
	reflective journal	– 20%,
	group presentation	– 50%)

### Required/Essential Readings

- Mok, K.H. and Kuhner, S. (eds.) *Managing welfare expectations and social change: Policy transfer in Asia*, Londong: Routledge, 2018.
- Lau, K.W. and Gordon, D. (eds.) *Poverty in a rich society*, Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 2017.

- Yeates, N. (ed.) *Understanding global social policy*, Bristol: The Policy Press, 2014.
- Ho, L.S. *Public policy and the public interest*, London: Routledge, 2012.
- O'Connor, M.K., and Netting F. E., *Analyzing social policy: multiple perspectives for critically understanding and evaluating policy*, Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2010.
- Dunn, W.N. *Public policy analysis*, New York: Pearson, 2012.

### **Recommended/Supplementary Readings**

- Saunders, P. and He, J.W. (eds.) *Social protection in East Asian Chinese societies: Challenges, responses and impacts*, Special Issue of *Journal of Asian Public Policy*, Vol.10, No.2, July 2017.
- Ngok, K.L. and Chan, C.K. *China's social policy: Transformation and challenges*, London: Routledge, 2016.
- Chan, K.H., Zinn, J.O., Wang, L.R. (eds.) *New life courses, social risks and social policy in East Asia*, London: Routledge, 2016.
- Mok, K.H. and Lau, K.W. (eds.), *Managing social change and social policy in Greater China*, London: Routledge, 2014.
- Izuhara, M. (ed.) *Handbook on East Asian Social Policy*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2013.
- Mok, K.H. and Forrest, R. (eds.), *Changing governance and public policy in East Asia*, London: Routledge, 2009.
- Hajer, M.A. and Wagenaar, H. *Deliberate policy analysis: Understanding governance in the network society*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Fischer, F., Miller G.J., and Sidney M.S. (eds.), *Handbook of public policy analysis*, Boca Raton, FL: Taylor and Francis, 2007.
- Gupta, D.K., *Analyzing public policy: concepts, tools and techniques*, Washington DC: CQ Press, 2011.
- Lavalette, M., and Pratt A. (eds.), *Social policy: a conceptual and theoretical introduction*, London: Sage, 2001.
- Rainwater, L. (ed.), *Social policy and public policy: inequality and justice*, New Brunswick, NJ: Aldine Transaction, 2009.

Additional readings directly relevant to the topics selected for the seminar will be suggested by the instructors and speakers concerned.

### **Important Notes:**

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is "the presentation of another person's work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even

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footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student's own work". Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.

- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness" is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.