

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 科目簡介

COURSES FOR 4-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

POL2101 Introduction to Political Science (3 credits)

(Restriction(s): CUS3213 Culture, Power and Government passed in 2017-18 or before)

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.

POL3101 Empirical Political Analysis: Approaches and Methods (3 credits)

(Prerequisite(s): POL2101 Introduction to Political Science)

This course focuses on the nature of scientific analysis and the major forms of qualitative, quantitative, and textual research utilised by political scientists. It also provides students with the basic tools to enable them to identify research questions, construct literature reviews and write a research paper.

POL3102 Fundamentals of Public Administration (3 credits)

(deleted from 2020-21)

This course is designed to enable students to view governance issues through the eyes of a public administrator. In addition, the course is structured so as to provide students with some basic skills that are essential to public administrators and cognate managers. While the vast majority of the substantive materials discussed in this course focuses on the issues of public administrators, many of the principles are applicable to the private sector, particularly with regard to the management of non-governmental organisations.

POL3103 Gender and Politics (3 credits) (from 2020-21)

(Restriction(s): Students are not allowed to take both this course and SOC4002 Gender and Society)

Gender has fundamentally shaped all aspects of our lives. This course examines the various roles that gender play in politics and society. We will discuss how social practices of gender has deeply influenced political development, and vice versa. Special attention will be paid to the myriad ways through which gender as a concept can contribute to political science research. This course helps students to apply theories to analyse the relationship between gender and politics, 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.

POL3104 Media, Data and Politics (3 credits) (from 2020-21)

This course investigates the complex relationship between politics, media and data in modern society. We will explore how old media (newspaper, TV, radio, etc), new media (social media and Internet-based media) and the “big data” shape the global and local political landscape. Students are expected to learn about the role of different media in the political process, with a particular focus on how new media transforms such process --- the rise of cyber propaganda, the use and abuse of social media, the fake news phenomenon and the impact of censorship and surveillance. We will combine classroom learning with real-life practices and expert sharing, such that students can learn about both the theoretical and practical aspects of how old and new media impacts politics.

POL3105 Political Economy of Development (3 credits) (from 2020-21)

This course is devoted to understanding various dimensions of development including economic growth, the state, rule of law and democracy. A primary focus of the course is how political institutions influence development outcomes. Lectures and readings will include examples from various countries around the world.

POL3106 Small States in World Politics (3 credits) (from 2020-21)

Owing to their unique vulnerabilities, small states have different needs, adopt different foreign policies, and have a harder time to survive and even gain interests than large states in the anarchic international system. Nevertheless, by adopting appropriate international strategies and formulating adequate foreign policy, small states can compensate for the limitations of their size and exert influence on world politics. Thus, while understanding the foreign policies and international strategies of major powers, to comprehend those of small states is equally important.

POL3107 Contemporary Asia Pacific (from 2020-21) /
Asia Pacific Today (in 2019-20 or before) (3 credits)
(recoded from SSC3203 from 2020-21)

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

POL3201 Government and Politics of Contemporary China (3 credits)

This course focuses on the study of China's center-provincial relations, rural reform, urban reform, banking reform, dissent and the rule of law, control and liberalisation of the mass media, and ethnic politics in Tibet and Xinjiang.

POL3203 International Politics (3 credits)

The course introduces students to the major developments in the history of international relations and to key theoretical approaches to understanding the world's politics. They will learn about the major actors, forces and ideas that influence contemporary political events and systems across the globe. They will examine some of the more significant features and characteristics of the international system and how it relates to both states and individuals. Through the use of particular case studies, students should appreciate better the dynamics of policy-making in the international arena.

POL3204 International Law (3 credits) (deleted from 2020-21)

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.

POL3205 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.

POL3208 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 reasons of market failures and the use of public policy. Then, the following topics will be covered: stages of public policy-making, the calculations and interactions of actors involved in the policy-making process, goals of public policy and public management values.

POL3210 Comparative Politics (3 credits)

(Prerequisite(s): (a) POL2101 Introduction to Political Science or (b) CUS3213 Culture, Power and Government passed in 2017-18 or before)

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 clash of civilisations, ethnic conflicts and others.

POL3214 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.

**POL3215 Taiwan: Politics and Society (from 2020-21)/
Taiwan: Society and Politics (in 2019-20 or before) (3 credits)**
(recoded from SSC3215 from 2020-21)

The course intends to acquaint students with social and political development of Taiwan after 1949. The history of Japanese colonial legacy will be briefly introduced. It then goes on to analyse the ideology and party structure of the KMT and DPP, two major political parties in Taiwan, and the dynamics of economic development, societal development and political change. Finally the problem of cross-straits relationships will be explored.

POL3216 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. We will endeavour to understand the American foreign policy process by studying the U.S. role in several international issue areas. The unit will familiarise students with the role that global issues play in contemporary American foreign policy, illustrate the complexities and difficulties faced by U.S. decision makers as they formulate and implement foreign policy, and help students understand why the United States behaves the way it does, for good and sometimes for ill, in world affairs.

POL3217 Modern Political Ideologies (3 credits)

The course intends to give students a general conceptual understanding of the most important currents in political ideas or thought in the contemporary world. The key themes in each current of thought will be briefly discussed and applied to the analysis of real world situations both externally and locally as far as possible.

POL3218 War and Peace (3 credits)

This course studies security issues in an anarchic international order, which makes security “scarce” for nation-states. The course examines the causes of the shortage of security from various perspectives. These include the insights of structural realism, defensive realism, and offensive realism. War and peace constitute core issues for the study of international security. In that context, the course will study different theories of the causes of war that span structural forces, domestic-level factors, and leaders’ decision-making. It will also explore alternative strategies to maintain peace and stability and these include balance of power, nuclear deterrence, interdependence, democratic peace, and collective security.

POL4001 Seminar in International Political Economy (3 credits)

This course begins with a review of the conceptual, theoretical and methodological perspectives on the state and market followed by an examination of how state and market

interactions have shaped the post-war global political economy. This course provides a broad survey of the field of (IPE) International Political Economy as it has evolved in the post-war period. The central concern of IPE involves the study of the reciprocal relationships between the state and the market or politics and economics, both nationally and globally, in particular, the roots of the subprime-induced global financial crisis and the Great Recession of 2007-09; what explains the fast-moving contagion, the role of the U.S. Federal Reserve and Treasury and other central banks, the nature and implications of the massive government bailout, the Bush and the Obama Administrations policy responses and the debates it has generated regarding states and markets (state capitalism vs. American-style free-market neoliberal capitalism).

POL4003 Comparative Judicial Politics (3 credits) (from 2020-21)

We all interact with the judicial system and law in a variety of ways. This course examines the role that legal institutions, especially courts, judges, and lawyers, play in the judicial system. We will discuss how legal institutions are related to and influence other branches of government, and vice versa. Special attention will be paid to the emergence and dynamics of judicial politics in Asia, including Hong Kong in recent years. This course helps students to apply theories to analyze the relationship between judicial institutions and politics, 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.

POL4004 Elections, Party Competition and Electioneering (3 credits)
(from 2020-21)

Elections have been held at a specific interval of time in all developed and developing democracies and hundreds of thousands of voters are motivated to participate in them. What are the purposes of having periodic elections? How are elections held under different political systems? Do electoral systems matter for election outcomes? What are the roles of political parties in the electoral process? What factors have shaped voters' choices? What are the impacts of new social media on electioneering? These questions will be addressed both at the theoretical and empirical levels, and local and international examples will be cited for illustration purposes.

POL4005 Religion and Political Conflicts (3 credits) (from 2020-21)

For good or bad, there is no gainsaying the force of religious belief on political discourses and actions. Defying the predictions of secularisation and the decline of religion in the modern world, religious faith and activism is resurfacing in global affairs. Increasing religiosity has led to incidents of political strife and challenges in the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent, former Yugoslavia, Southeast Asia, South Africa, China and elsewhere. The class introduces students to the systematic study of these phenomena, by examining the roles of major world religions in contemporary politics across cultures, states and regions.

POL4006 Regional Cooperation and Integration (from 2020-21)/
APEC and Regional Co-operation (in 2019-20 or before) (3 credits)
(recoded from SSC4307 from 2020-21)

This course examines the Asian Pacific region's efforts to promote various types of regional cooperation and integration, particularly in the economic, but also security area.

POL4007 Politics and Government of Japan (from 2020-21)/
Social Change and Politics in Japan (in 2019-20 or before) (3 credits)
(recoded from SSC4316 from 2020-21)

The course examines some of the more significant features and characteristics of Japanese society and considers a number of social issues that are being debated currently in Japan. It also examines the structure and dynamics of the Japanese political system and assesses

the inter-relationships of politicians, bureaucracy and business. Finally, we will consider how Japan is coping with the demands of this new century.

POL4303 Global Environmental Politics (3 credits)

From 2017-18

This course is designed to study how environmental issues are interconnected with politics, power relationship, and globalisation. Through examining main global environmental challenges that the international community (including Hong Kong and China) is facing (e.g. climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation, depletion of natural resources etc.), the course intends to help students develop theoretical visions and practical insights to understand the prominent global environmental issues, and to apply conceptual tools to explain current situation.

In 2016-17 or before

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.

**POL4305 Chinese Foreign Policy (from 2020-21)/
China in World Politics (in 2019-20 or before) (3 credits)**

The turn of this 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. Chinese foreign policy has never been seen to be as active and confident as in the first years of the 21st century. Despite some ups and downs, China's relations with all the major powers as well as its neighbouring countries are at its best time since the establishment of the People's Republic more than half century ago.

POL4308 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.

POL4309 Current Issues in International Politics (3 credits)

This course is intended to introduce you to current issues that are at the forefront of debate in the media and amongst opinion leaders in international politics. Possibly three to four topics will be discussed in depth so that you can relate these pressing concerns in contemporary international affairs to the broader background of international political theories. Potential topics include: the politics of food; terrorism; the politics of financial crises; politics of activism; water and politics; soft power; new US President; globalization; promoting democracy; terrorism; weapon proliferation and non-proliferation, global inequality, and global migration.

POL4318 Selected Issues in Environmental Studies (3 credits)

(deleted from 2020-21)

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.

POL4319 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 the Korean peninsula, the diversity of cooperative security and economic institutions involving Northeast Asian states, and political development and regional interaction, and the implications of China's development for the regional economy.

POL4320 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.