COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 科目簡介

COURSES FOR 4-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Note: Course Letter Code "POL" is changed to "GOV" effective from the 2022-23 academic year.

GOV2101 Introduction to Political Science (3 credits)
(recoded from POL2101 from 2022-23)
(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.

GOV3101 Empirical Political Analysis: Approaches and Methods (3 credits)
(recoded from POL3101 from 2022-23)
(Prerequisite(s): GOV2101 Introduction to Political Science (coded as POL2101 in 2021-22 or before))
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.

GOV3103 Gender and Politics (3 credits)
(recoded from POL3103 from 2022-23)
(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.

GOV3104 Media, Data and Politics (3 credits)
(recoded from POL3104 from 2022-23)
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.

GOV3105 Political Economy of Development (3 credits)
(recoded from POL3105 from 2022-23)
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.

GOV3106 Small States in World Politics (3 credits)
(recoded from POL3106 from 2022-23)
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.

GOV3107 Contemporary Asia Pacific (from 2020-21) /
Asia Pacific Today (in 2019-20 or before) **(3 credits)**
(recoded from POL3107 from 2022-23)
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.

GOV3201 Government and Politics of Contemporary China (3 credits)
(recoded from POL3201 from 2022-23)
This course focuses on the study of China's transition from Mao to post-Mao era, evolution and changes of the governance system, reform and opening, democracy and dissent, and selected issues with their challenges on mass media, youth culture and ethnic politics.

GOV3203 International Politics (3 credits)
(recoded from POL3203 from 2022-23)
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.

GOV3205 Global Governance (3 credits)
(recoded from POL3205 from 2022-23)
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.

GOV3208 Public Policy: Values and Processes (3 credits)
(recoded from POL3208 from 2022-23)
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.

GOV3210 Comparative Politics (3 credits)
(recoded from POL3210 from 2022-23)
(Prerequisite(s): (a) GOV2101 Introduction to Political Science (coded as POL2101 in 2021-22 or before) 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.

GOV3214 Government and Politics of Hong Kong (3 credits)
(recoded from POL3214 from 2022-23)
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.

GOV3215 Taiwan: Politics and Society (from 2020-21)/
Taiwan: Society and Politics (in 2019-20 or before) **(3 credits)**
(recoded from POL3215 from 2022-23)
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.

GOV3216 American Foreign Policy (3 credits)
(recoded from POL3216 from 2022-23)
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.

GOV3217 Modern Political Ideologies (3 credits)
(recoded from POL3217 from 2022-23)
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.

GOV3218 War and Peace (3 credits)
(recoded from POL3218 from 2022-23)
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.

GOV3219 Introduction to Computational Political Science (3 credits)
How has the rise of big data and computational tools transformed the process of political science research? This course provides students with a foundation in computational tools used in political science research, such as web scraping, natural language processing (NLP), social network analysis (SNS), and machine learning.

GOV3220 International Political Economy of East Asia (3 credits)
(in Summer Term, 2023-24)
As one of most dynamic regions in the world, East Asia stands at the forefront of the academic and policy debates on economic development, global value chains, and emerging economies. The region also plays an indispensable part in shaping the future of trade liberalization, technological innovation and politico-economic regionalism. Of equal importance is the long history of East Asia as an interactive region in both economic and political terms. The historical legacy of the ancient silk roads, the hierarchical regional order, and the transnational flow of money in East Asia offer another unique and yet generalizable set of cases in the field of international political economy.

This course examines the international political economic dynamics of East Asia. It treats East Asia is as an interactive politico-economic space beyond the boundaries of individual countries, and pays equal attention to the past and the present. It covers a wide range of topics, including the silk roads, the tributary system, the circulation of money, the political economy of colonialism, the adoption of modern state system, the developmental state, regional production networks, East Asian regionalism, and the rise of China.

GOV3221 Ethics and Public Affairs (3 credits)
This course explores how moral reasoning shapes public affairs by examining key ethical theories and their application to real-world issues. In the first part, students will learn foundational ethical frameworks and how they relate to complex public problems. The second part focuses on analysing case studies involving controversial public issues, applying moral theories to uncover ethical complexities and diverse viewpoints. By the end of the course, students will be able to critically assess public issues from multiple ethical perspectives and articulate the nuanced reasoning behind different moral approaches.

GOV4001 Seminar in International Political Economy (3 credits)
(recoded from POL4001 from 2022-23)
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, Great Recession; Euro Debt Crisis, Trade War, COVID-19 pandemic, etc. 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 global governments' and central banks' policy responses and the debates it has generated regarding states and markets.

GOV4003 Comparative Judicial Politics (3 credits)

(recoded from POL4003 from 2022-23)

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.

GOV4004 Elections, Party Competition and Electioneering (3 credits)
(recoded from POL4004 from 2022-23)

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.

GOV4005 Religion and Political Conflicts (3 credits)
(recoded from POL4005 from 2022-23)

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.

GOV4006 Regional Cooperation and Integration (from 2020-21)/
APEC and Regional Co-operation (in 2019-20 or before) **(3 credits)**
(recoded from POL4006 from 2022-23)

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.

GOV4007 Politics and Foreign Relations of Japan (from Term 2, 2022-23)/
Politics and Government of Japan (from 2020-21 to Term 1, 2022-23)/
Social Change and Politics in Japan (in 2019-20 or before) **(3 credits)**
(recoded from POL4007 from 2022-23)

From Term 2, 2022-23

This course introduces students to the politics, political economy, and international relations of Japan. After first considering modern Japan's political traditions and the impact of the post-war American occupation on contemporary Japan's political layout, we will then move on to cover the role of political parties, the bureaucracy, and private actors; economic development and stagnation; relations with its regional neighbors as well as the United States. The course places a particular emphasis on contemporary challenges facing Japan, including the implications of the "lost decades", Japan's role vis-à-vis the liberal international order, and Japan's response to geopolitical challenges among which the rise of China is the most acute.

In Term 1, 2022-23 or before

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.

GOV4303 Global Environmental Politics (3 credits)
(recoded from POL4303 from 2022-23)

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.

GOV4305 Chinese Foreign Policy (from 2020-21)/
China in World Politics (in 2019-20 or before) **(3 credits)**
(recoded from POL4305 from 2022-23)

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.

GOV4308 Selected Issues in Asian Pacific Governance (3 credits)
(recoded from POL4308 from 2022-23)

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.

GOV4309 Current Issues in International Politics (3 credits)
(recoded from POL4309 from 2022-23)

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.

GOV4319 International Politics of Northeast Asia (3 credits)
(recoded from POL4319 from 2022-23)

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 North-east Asian states, political development and regional interaction, and the implications of China's development for the regional economy.

GOV4320 International Politics of Southeast Asia (3 credits)
(recoded from POL4320 from 2022-23)

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.