

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)

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.

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)

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.

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).

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 China in World Politics (3 credits)

The turn of 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. 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)

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.