Course Title	:	Seminar on Social Policy and Social Change
Course Code	:	DPS707
Recommended Study Year	:	Doctor of Policy Studies Year 1
No. of Credits/Term	:	3 Credits/Term 2
Mode of Tuition	:	Lecture and Seminar
Class Contact Hours	:	3 hours per week (2 hours presentation and 1-hour tutorial)
Category	:	Required
Discipline	:	Social Science
Prerequisite(s)	:	N/A
Co-requisite(s)	:	N/A
Exclusion(s)	:	N/A
Exemption Requirement(s)	:	N/A

Brief Course Description

The series of Seminar on Social Policy and Social Change provides opportunities for students to dialogue with scholars from different disciplines to discuss issues of social policy and social change. Speakers from different research areas will be invited to engage in research dialogues with students. After each seminar, the course instructor will lead a tutorial session where the policy tenets and implications will be discussed in light of prevailing public debates.

An international symposium will be organized at Lingnan University to engage students of this course to enhance their learning and research experiences. Throughout the international symposium, students will have the opportunity to learn from leading researchers. Different themes will be chosen as focus of research and policy dialogue among scholars and practitioners coming from the Asia Pacific region. Students will respond to speakers' presentations and join the discussion with speakers and other participants. They will also have some reflections linking their learning experience with their research. Students will have opportunity to present their research during the international symposium, getting comments and feedbacks from the symposium participants.

Aims

This course aims to equip students with the understanding of social policy and social changes issues, and to enhance student learning experience through engaging them to actively participating in seminar series and the symposium.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Understand major issues, challenges of social policy and social changes through actively participate in seminars and the symposium;

2. Summarize and reflect their learning experience after seminars and the symposium;

3. Build the links between their research and the discussions highlighted in the seminar series and the symposium.

Indicative Content

In the seminar series, speakers will be invited to share their research on issues of social policy and social change. Speakers are scholars with rich research experience in different disciplines.

In the symposium, leading researchers will be invited to present their recent studies and share their research experience. Different themes will be chosen as focus of research and policy dialogue among scholars and practitioners. Students will be organized into different groups during the symposium to respond to the presentations made by the invited speakers and special presentation sessions will be organized as part of the event to enable students to present their research projects, with particular reference to build the links between their research and the discussions highlighted in the international symposium.

Teaching Method

Seminars and international symposium are combined with sharing sessions. Students will engage in discussions and presentations in seminar series and the international symposium.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome	Discussion and Participation in seminars and international symposium	Poster presentation/exhibition and/or oral presentation	Summary of symposium/seminars	Reflective Journal
1. understand major issues, challenges of research methodology of different disciplines through actively participate in seminars and the symposium	✓			
2. summarize and reflect their learning experience after seminars and the symposium	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. build the links between their research and the discussions highlighted in the seminar series and the international symposium		✓	✓	✓

Assessment

Assessment weighting

- Summary of symposium/seminars and Reflective journal (Between 4000 and 5000 words)   40%
- Poster presentation/exhibition and/or oral presentation   40%
- Active participation (Minimum attendance of 70% and participation in discussion and sharing during seminars)   20%

Assessment Rubrics

Summary of Symposium/Seminars and Reflective Journal (40%)

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Pass	Failure
	A (85-100) A- (80-84)	B+ (75-79) B (70-74) B- (65-69)	C+ (60-64) C (55-59) C- (50-54)	F (0-49)
Understanding of topic	Comprehensive understanding and coverage of issues. Insightful and well-informed. Clearly answers the question.	Clear discussion of relevant issues. Shows good insight into the subject. Answers the question.	Shows some coverage and understanding of main issues. Does not answer the question fully/directly enough.	Very little or no understanding of the issues. Does not answer the question.
Use of evidence	Wide range of evidence used to support arguments. Thoroughly researched. Use of primary sources.	Good use of evidence to support arguments.	Adequate range of evidence used. Could have drawn on more suitable evidence.	Inadequate use of evidence to support argument. No use of evidence to support argument
Critical analysis	Excellent critical awareness of subject matter and current issues. Shows original thinking and analysis.	Goes beyond description. Analyses material to develop argument.	More description than analysis in content. Needs to draw material together to develop argument.	Describes the issues but shows significant misunderstanding of basic issues.

Structure of argument	Clear structure. Presents a convincing and well developed argument.	Clear structure. Develops a sound argument.	Argument needs further development. Structure needs more clarity.	Poor structure. No clear argument. No clear linkage from point to point.
Writing and referencing	Uses references correctly. Demonstrates excellent writing skills.	Generally uses references correctly but some parts less well referenced. Competent writing skills.	Some parts not referenced correctly. Writing skills could be improved.	Not referenced correctly. Poor writing skills. Needed proof reading.

Poster Presentation/Exhibition and/or Oral Presentation (40%)

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Pass	Failure
	A (85-100) A- (80-84)	B+ (75-79) B (70-74) B- (65-69)	C+ (60-64) C (55-59) C- (50-54)	F (0-49)
Content	Comprehensive understanding and coverage of issues. Wide range of evidence used to support arguments and demonstrate critical thinking.	Clear discussion of relevant issues. Good use of evidence support arguments. Go beyond description.	Show some coverage and understanding of main issues. Adequate range of evdience used. More description than analysis in content.	Very little or no understanding of the issues. Inadequate use of evidence to support argument. Describe the issues but show significant misunderstanding of basic issues.
Organisation	Clear structure. Present a convincing and well-developed argument.	Clear structure. Present a sound argument.	Argument needs further development.S tructure needs more clarity.	Poor structure nd no clear argument.
Style of presentation and effectiveness in leading the discussion	Demostrate excellent presentation skills and communication with audience.	Demostrate competent presentation skills and communicat-ion with audience.	Demonstrate good presentation skills and communicat-ion with audience.	Demonstrate poor presentation skills and communicat-ion with audience.

Discussion and Participation (20%)

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Pass	Failure
	A (85-100) A- (80-84)	B+ (75-79) B (70-74) B- (65-69)	C+ (60-64) C (55-59) C- (50-54)	F (0-49)
Student has made effort to prepare for discussions during class	Expression of ideas is consistently accruate, logical and clear.	Expression of ideas is generally accruate, logical and clear. Lapses are rare and minor in nature.	Expression of ideas is generally factually accurate, logical and clear, but with a number of minor lapses.	Ideas are not expressed logically and are characterised by significant inaccuracies and lack of clarity

Required/Essential Readings

Readings directly relevant to the topics of the seminars will be suggested by the instructors and speakers concerned. Since the international symposium is guided by a special concept paper for discussion and presentation, students will be well informed before the event takes place.

Important Notes:

(1) 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 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.

(2) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.

(3) To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness" is available on https://pla.ln.edu.hk/.

(20 July 2018)