

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 科目簡介

COURSES FOR TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

CPA501 Policy Processes and Analysis (3 credits)

This course aims to enable students to understand the policy process and identify, analyse, and evaluate major policy issues. The course consists of two parts: policy process and studies on major policy issues. For the first part, the policy process is considered in a very broad context – from the evolution of an idea and the enactment of legislation, to program implementation and evaluation. Students will study major steps in the policy processes, from issue identification, policy decision-making, policy implementation, to policy evaluation. In the second part of the course, key policy issues will be discussed further, including education, healthcare, welfare etc. This course will further show how quantitative and qualitative analyses could be performed in policy studies. After taking the course, students will be expected to be able to analyse major policy issues from an analytical perspective.

CPA502 Research Methods in Public Management (3 credits)

This course is designed to introduce students to a wide range of empirical research methods in public management. Topics will include concept formation, theory development and testing, the design of data collection activities, data visualisation, qualitative interviews, fieldwork, basic qualitative and quantitative data analysis techniques and causal inference. Throughout the semester, students will develop a research paper based on self-collected survey data.

CPA503 Public Policy Lab (3 credits)

This course is designed to help students understand the basics of public policy development, initiation, implementation, and assessment across different countries. This course provides students with an overview of the numerous theories, models, and methodologies used by academics and practitioners in the field of policy studies. Comparative case analyses will help students understand how the characteristics of public policy differ in achieving goals, delivering services, and evaluating their effectiveness across countries (or across localities) and how they influence policymakers' attitudes and behaviour, organisational performance, and other outcomes. This course also exposes students to analysing policy issues related to the introduction of information technology in public management. Special attention will be given to reflect on increasingly smart governance issues, especially citizens' concerns about privacy and data management during policy implementation. By engaging in in-class discussions and extracurricular activities, each student will interact and work closely with the lab instructor through desk crits, pin-ups, and formal reviews. Students will be encouraged to conduct small-scale research on a variety of public policy topics and to attend field trips and seminars with policymakers and practitioners from various professions. By completing this course, students will be able to recognise and define public policy issues across different countries, examine public policy issues in which they are interested in, and provide good suggestions on how such issues could be addressed or solved.

CPA504 Chinese Politics, Policy and Governance (3 credits)

This course provides a comprehensive overview of China's political development, with an emphasis on China's role in various aspects of global governance. It offers an in-depth analysis of how Chinese governance affects public action in practice by examining different policy areas,

such as health reform, public finance, higher education, environmental protection, technology innovation, and other critical issues. This course also highlights China's significant economic and political activities through policies, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, and the BRICS block (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). The basic objective of this course is to provide students with an opportunity to learn about and critically reflect on China's role in global and regional governance frameworks. From that foundation, we will move on to current governing challenges in China as well as the future shape of China's socio-political change.

CPA505 Politics, Law and Digital Governance (3 credits)

This course delivers an in-depth exploration of the interplay between digital governance and related political and legal matters. It provides a framework for understanding how digital technology intersects with governance and the key political dynamics that influence the efficacy and outcomes of digital governance initiatives. Throughout the course, we will tackle contentious issues, such as the ethical dilemmas and security challenges inherent in the development and adoption of digital governance systems. Moreover, we will engage with the intricacies of regulatory practices and the enforcement of laws in digital governance. The primary aim of this course is to equip students with the knowledge to comprehend the principles, concepts, infrastructure, and obstacles that related to current digital governance. This understanding is intended to be directly applicable to the practical aspects of policy formulation, procedural design, and implementation.

CPA506 Digital Analysis in Public Management (3 credits)

This course is designed to help students understand the role of digital analytics in public policy and public management. This course has been divided into two parts to provide both theoretical and practical insights. The first part of the course offers a comprehensive overview of the proliferation of digital technologies and explores the benefits that digital analytics brings to the field of public management. Students will be introduced to a variety of case studies from different countries, including Hong Kong and others around the globe, which showcase the application of digital analytics in real-world scenarios. We will investigate how digital data analysis can assist governmental agencies in addressing complex issues such as transportation and housing. The second part shifts focus to the practical application of data analytics tools. Students will engage in hands-on exercises designed to enhance their skills in utilising digital tools to analyse social issues and public policies. They will be expected to work either individually or collaboratively in groups to undertake a short empirical project that relies on digital data.

CPA507 Digital Politics and Cyberthreats in Practice (3 credits)

In this course, we will examine the political and ethical dimensions of digital technologies. Concepts like big data, algorithms and AI have transformed numerous industries over the last decade. However, debate around the appropriate implication and regulation of such technologies is still evolving. The course aims to develop students' understanding of both the theoretical underpinnings and practical applications of digital politics. It begins by exploring the challenges and debates faced by governments and organisations in balancing technological progress with principles of privacy, security, and access in the digital realm. Then the ethical implications of digital trends and cyberthreats will be discussed. The course focuses on enhance

students critical thinking by conducting workshops in discussing politics in the digital era. Students will engage with case studies and group debate to reflect on how real digital challenge political communication and institutional governance. This course provides a robust foundation for those interested in technology policy and leading discussions on managing digital innovation responsibly.

CPA508 Digital Governance in Public Sector: Management Issues (3 credits)

In this course, we will explore the emerging challenges and opportunities in utilising digital technologies for public service delivery and governance through a hands-on, applied learning approach. By participating in the policy forum activities, students have the opportunity to present their policy briefs and research findings rooted in real-world governance issues and their group research projects. Students are expected to experience the pressure involved in proposing policy briefings or policy evaluations in a public forum, assuming the roles of different stakeholders, such as government officials, politicians, interest groups, and the media. Additionally, students will engage in field studies at public institutions, gaining practical experience in governance and the policy forum exercise's management process. This course aims to provide students with the practical knowledge and skills required to plan, develop, and manage digital initiatives in government and public organisations. Students will gain practical skills in digital governance, policymaking, and change leadership through the experimental learning of policy studio, seminars, and field trips.

CPA601 Comparative Public Administration Capstone Project and Symposium Presentation (6 credits)

The course is meant to provide students with an opportunity to reflectively and practically integrate the lessons from other policy related courses. It focuses on the public policy issues that a society faces by identifying and thoroughly analysing the causes and consequences of various social problems and the opportunities and limitations for policy responses to them. This course has been divided into two parts. The first part comprises an intensive comparative methodological lesson on researching various policy issues.

Students will be taken through different methodologies and analytical techniques. In the second part, students will be expected to work individually or in groups to carry out short empirical research based on primary or secondary data.

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