

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 科目簡介**

### **COURSES FOR TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES**

#### **DPS701 Globalisation, Changing Governance and Policy Analysis (3 credits)**

This course will be taught through a series of interactive lectures and structured seminar exercises. Lectures are intended to be interactive, with participation by students in discussion on the relevant topic. Students are expected to come to the lectures having read at least the required reading for that week and be ready to engage in discussion on that week's topic. There are a small number of seminars, which generally take the form of structured exercises such as debates and role-plays. In order for these to work properly, students are asked to plan their work in advance and take adequate time to prepare when it is their turn to present.

#### **DPS702 Research Methods in Policy Studies (6 credits)**

This course consists of weekly lectures/workshops followed by tutorials with focus on research methods and application to various policy issues. It will consist of three parts. The first part of the course involves a combination of lectures and computer workshops with the aims to enable students to master advanced knowledge and skills about applying appropriate statistical methods to analyse and interpret different forms of data. The lectures will cover theoretical background and basis for different analytical techniques and methods. Each week will feature a specific statistical topic. Following the lectures, the workshops will provide students with opportunities for hands on exercises using different statistical software (e.g., SPSS, ArcGIS). This is a student-led approach that is guided by course instructors. The second part of the course will consist of introduction to basic and advanced qualitative research methods. Students will be introduced to various approaches and methods in designing and carrying out qualitative research in policy studies. Students will be introduced to topics such as discourse and content analysis. They will also be introduced to an analytical software, NVivo. The third part of the course is to facilitate the students to integrate knowledge and skills of quantitative and qualitative research. Students will learn about mixed methods research.

#### **DPS703 Professional Writing Workshop (3 credits)**

The course covers professional skill and ethics in writing research papers. It would enable students to critically review literature, theories, methodologies and debates of the diverse policy areas with reference to research gap identification and research strategies. The course discusses major issues and challenges for writing research proposals and general academic papers. Students will also learn skills in building academic and professional writing vocabulary, managing the writing process, and ensuring cohesive and coherent arguments in academic and professional writing. It also consists of workshops on use of research support facilities and systems including the library and reference management software.

#### **DPS704 Guided Study in Policy Issues (6 credits)**

The course comprises a one-on-one intensive and systematic retrieval and analysis of bodies of literature that are relevant to a student's research interests and speciality. With guidance from assigned advisors, students will conduct a robust theoretical and empirical literature review on specific policy issues to enable students to formulate initial ideas and plans for their independent research project at the later stage in the programme. Students will be expected to prepare research proposals for the policy studies projects on a chosen topic by the end of this course. The proposals will be orally presented at a seminar where

projects will be evaluated by the supervisor and other faculty members.

### **DPS705 Policy Dissemination and Strategic Communication (6 credits)**

This course enables students to present their policy analysis and research findings generated from their policy related research through participating in workshops organised in the form of Public Policy Forum. Engaging students in role playing of different stakeholders (including government officials, politicians, interest groups and media), students would experience the pressure and learn how to present their policy proposal / policy evaluation in public forum. Where practicable, students would be asked to conduct a brief field study (in groups) of one policy institution with interest in specific policy issue and present their findings in a non-technical way.

Professional commentators from the media, academics, politicians and practitioners from the policy studies field will be invited to interact with students and share their experiences in managing policy dissemination process in the highly politicised environment. Through this experiential learning, students would be required to make careful and innovative preparations for articulation of policy agendas, policy proposals and policy evaluation.

### **DPS706 Dialogue with Policy Practitioners: Theory and Practice (3 credits)**

This course provides opportunities for students to dialogue with policy practitioners with expertise in a few major social and public policy areas, namely, education, health, housing and social security. More specifically, students will be engaged in special lectures, seminars and/or field visits, and class discussions with practitioners from various government offices, political parties, research and policy institutes, NGOs and other economic and social organisations, including the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office, the Committee of Professional Development of Teachers and Principals, Hospital Authority, Elderly Commission, and Hong Kong Council of Social Service. Potential speakers with rich policy making and policy implementation such as senior retired government officials or key chief executives of NGOs will be invited to share their management experiences in social/public policy.

### **DPS707 Seminar on Social Policy and Social Change (3 credits)**

The seminar on social policy and social changes provides an opportunity for students to engage in interdisciplinary perspectives to policy discussions and analysis. Local and overseas speakers are invited to share their ongoing and previous research with students. The emphasis of the seminars will be placed on the on the policy issues relating to the piece of research. The speakers will also draw connections between the research findings and existing and potential policies. Students are expected to respond to the speakers' presentations and actively engage in discussions on the policy implications with the speakers and other participants. They will be expected to draw connections between the seminars and their current or future research as well as other courses in the Doctor of Policy Studies programme.

As part of the course, a postgraduate conference will be organised. The postgraduate conference aims to support students in their quest for academic and social excellence. It will offer another multidisciplinary platform for students to enhance their research and presentation skills. The event will give participants an opportunity to contribute to and reflect upon the ever- expanding discourse on methodological and theoretical approaches to conducting discipline- specific, cross-disciplinary and comparative research by sharing their works while learning from others'—particularly those outside their disciplines. Students enrolling on the course are expected to present their research or reflections on methodological or policy implications from selected seminars in the first part of the

course. Students must make a poster presentation. They will receive feedback on their works from the numerous invited speakers faculty members, and their peers partaking in the conference.

**DPS708 Asia Pacific Comparative Development and Policy Symposium (3 credits)**

In collaboration with the Asia Pacific Higher Education Research Partnership and the EastWest Center in the USA, as well as East Asia Social Policy Research Network (EASP), an international symposium will be organised at Lingnan University to engage students to participate in international research event to enhance their learning and research experiences. Throughout the typically two-day international symposium, students would have the opportunity to learning from leading researchers in the comparative development and policy studies. Different themes will be chosen as focus of research and policy dialogue among scholars and practitioners coming from the Asia Pacific region. Student will be organised into different groups during the international symposium to respond to the presentations made by the invited speakers and special seminars will be organised after the international event to allow students to organise and reflect their learning after attending the symposium, with particular reference to build the links between what they are researching and the discussions highlighted in the international event.

**DPS709 Engaging the Media and Public Communications (3 credits)**

The course will be based on training students how to assemble quantitative evidence for media and public communications with a specific focus on data presentation and data visualisation. Students will have an opportunity to engage with professionals working in external organisations in Hong Kong to learn about their specific needs for quantitative data analysis. They will also meet representatives of the Hong Kong news media to hear their perspective on the virtues and limitations of quantitative policy research. In reflecting on these discussions, and by using real-world templates and examples, students will learn how to effectively identify non-academic stakeholders that may be interested in their research and how to write-up and circulate research findings in different formats including a policy brief, newspaper columns. Students will also learn the tools to devise a successful social media strategy for research dissemination and impact.

**DPS710 Policy Studies Project (33 credits)**

(Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of all taught courses)

The policy related project offers students an opportunity to propose, formulate and conduct an independent research at the doctoral level by applying research problem in the context of their professional practice.

**DPS711 Managing Change in Education Study Trip to Mainland China (3 credits)**

In recent years, mainland China has sought to promote the high-quality development of education through reform and build itself into an educational powerhouse. It is necessary to examine mainland China's reforms in the fields of basic education, higher education, engineering education, and international education and their impact. This course provides students with the opportunity to take a closer look at mainland China's education reform. Students will be engaged in field observations and field visits to develop a more critical understanding of urban development issues through their active participation and personal experience and critical reflection.

**DPS712 Internationalisation of Higher Education: Theories and Practices  
(3 credits)**

This course delves into the analysis of advanced theories and practical applications regarding the internationalisation of higher education. Students will examine the roots and progression of international higher education, with a special emphasis on present-day motivators and practices. These motivators encompass economic, political, cultural, and academic influences. The practices that will be examined comprising the establishment of overseas campuses, international partnerships in education and research, the mobility of international students and staff, and the application of innovative distance learning technologies. Special attention will be given to examine how geo-politics has generated impact on international learning and student wellbeing related issues.

**DPS713 Seminar on Managing Change in Education: Comparative Perspectives (3 credits)**

The course explores a range of theoretical perspectives, strategies, and frameworks for managing change in education, and compares and contrasts these approaches across different cultural, social, and political contexts. In addition, students will be exposed to major risk management areas like financial and reputation risks, managing student activism and media communication. Students will learn the essential knowledge in human resource management, financial management and risk management through participation in role plays, case studies, and project.

**DPS714 Asia Pacific Higher Education Research Partnership Symposium  
(3 credits)**

In collaboration with the Asia Pacific Higher Education Research Partnership (APHERP) and the East-West Center in the USA, as well as Centre for Global Higher Education (CGHE) based at the University of Oxford, an international symposium will be organised at Lingnan University or other partnering institutions of APHERP to engage students to participate in international research event to enhance their learning and research experiences. Throughout the typically two-day international symposium, students would have the opportunity to learning from leading researchers in the comparative development and policy studies. Different themes will be chosen as focus of research and policy dialogue among scholars and practitioners coming from the Asia Pacific region and beyond. Students will be organised into different groups during the international symposium to respond to the presentations made by the invited speakers. Special seminars will be organised after the international event to allow students to organise and reflect their learning after attending the symposium, with particular reference to build the links between what they are researching and the discussions highlighted in the international event. Students with strong motivation to present at the symposium is also encouraged, particularly for students who have prepared solid research materials for presentation.

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