

Subject Description Form

Subject Code	APSS3230														
Subject Title	Theories of Social Policy														
Credit Value	3														
Level	3														
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion	Nil														
Assessment Methods	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%;">100% Continuous Assessment</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Individual Assessment</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Group Assessment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Individual term paper</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Seminar presentation</td> <td style="text-align: center;">--</td> <td style="text-align: center;">35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Participation</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">--</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The grade is calculated according to the percentage assigned; the completion and submission of all component assignments are required for passing the subject; and students must obtain Grade D or above for all components if he/she is to pass the subject.</p>			100% Continuous Assessment	Individual Assessment	Group Assessment	1. Individual term paper	50%	--	2. Seminar presentation	--	35%	3. Participation	15%	--
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Objectives	The objectives of this subject are to a) introduce students to the key concepts and theoretical approaches in social policy studies; b) demonstrate different models of decision-making and policy formulation; c) develop a critical and comparative approach to the analysis of current social policy issues; d) explore innovative ways to solve social problems.														
Intended Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon successful completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. understand major concepts and theoretical perspectives in social policy; b. explain different policy-making models; c. apply relevant concepts, theories and models to analyze social policy and relevant social issues; d. demonstrate competence in interpreting major social policy and social development issues in Hong Kong and other East Asia societies from a comparative perspective; e. evaluate existing social services and social policy independently and critically f. develop a vision on trends and further development of social policy 														

Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction and overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The definition of social policy - Relationship with economics and other domains - Global social policy environment 2. Theories of social policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social democracy - Neo-liberalism and the new right - The third way and mixed economy - The concept of the welfare state 3. Major models of policymaking process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The stages model of policymaking process - The systems model of policymaking process - Three streams model of policymaking process 4. Theoretical debates in social policy analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Esping-Andersen: The three worlds of welfare capitalism - Diversity, social exclusion and inclusion - Environmentalism and Ecology - Globalization and geopolitical issues - Social policy and social justice 																																														
Teaching/Learning Methodology	<p>This subject consists of a series of relevant lectures and group discussions. Since the major aim of this subject is to develop critical thinking and analytical power, an interactive approach is adopted to encourage discussions and debates on social policy theories and issues. Debates on social policy theories and case studies will be highlighted in lectures for discussion. Students are also required to present selected policy theories in the last three lectures, through which they learn to develop knowledge in a specific area and to articulate their arguments systematically.</p>																																														
Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Specific assessment methods/tasks</th> <th rowspan="2">% weighting</th> <th colspan="6">Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>a</th> <th>b</th> <th>c</th> <th>d</th> <th>e</th> <th>f</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Term Paper</td> <td>50%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Group presentation</td> <td>35%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Participation</td> <td>15%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>100%</td> <td colspan="6"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)						a	b	c	d	e	f	1. Term Paper	50%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2. Group presentation	35%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3. Participation	15%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Total	100%						
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	<p>Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:</p> <p>Term Paper (Individual)</p> <p>Students are required to submit an individual term paper of 3,000 words including title page, executive summary, tables, figures, and references. Students should choose to work on a specific social issue or a policy area that they find interesting and relevant to the subject content. Students need to conduct literature review and conceptual analysis on that topic by applying appropriate theories and models. The paper should be presented clearly in an academically relevant approach; factual evidence as well as analytical reasoning are both necessary.</p> <p>Group Presentation</p> <p>Students in small groups will prepare and conduct presentation on a designated topic. They are expected to illustrate their analyses of local policy issues and social problems. Data and statistics are important to substantiate their arguments. Students are also expected to motivate fellow students to take part in discussion and debate, and they also need to respond to challenges and questions appropriately. The seminar sessions will provide a platform for participatory learning; to brush up students' analytical ability and to develop skills in effective communications in policy debates.</p> <p>Participation</p> <p>Merits will be given to those who participate actively and constructively in class. Class attendance and participation are considered important for this course and will account for 15% of the total assessment.</p>	
<p>Student Study Effort Required</p>	<p>Class contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lectures <p>Other student study effort:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reading Subject Materials ▪ Preparation for Group Presentation ▪ Term Paper Writing <p>Total student study effort</p>	<p></p> <p>39 Hrs.</p> <p></p> <p>20 Hrs.</p> <p>28 Hrs.</p> <p>28 Hrs.</p> <p>115 Hrs.</p>
<p>Reading List and References</p>	<p><u>Essential</u></p> <p>Alcock, Pete; May, Margaret & Rowlingson, Karen (ed.) (2022). <i>The Student's Companion to Social Policy, 6th edition</i>. Chichester; Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.</p>	

- 周永新 (2017) 。 *創建公平和關愛社會—香港民生政策的得與失* 。香港：中華書局(香港)有限公司。
- Fitzpatrick, T. (2011). *Welfare Theory: An Introduction to the Theoretical Debates in Social Policy, 2nd edition*. Basingstoke and New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Supplementary**
- Baglioni, S. & Sinclair, S. (2018). *Social Innovation and Social Policy: Theory, Policy and Practice*. Bristol: The Policy Press.
- Birkland, T. (2020). *An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts, and Models of Public Policy Making, 5th edition*. New York: Routledge.
- Blau, J., & Abramovitz, M. (2014). *The Dynamics of Social Welfare Policy, 4th edition*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.
- Bochel, H. M. & D. Guy. (2021). *Social Policy 4th edition*. London; New York: Routledge.
- Esping-Andersen, G. (1990). *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.
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- Savita, K., Simonetta, M., Vickers, L. (2012). *Managing Equality and Diversity Theory and Practice*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- McNutt, J. & Hofer, R. (2020). *Social Welfare Policy: Responding to a Changing World 2nd edition*. Chicago, Illinois : Lyceum Books, Inc.
- Pascall, G. (2012). *Gender Equality in the Welfare State?* Bristol: The Policy Press.
- Sabatier, P. & Weible, M. (2018). *Theories of the Policy Process, 4th edition*. New York: Routledge.
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- Yeats, N. (2022). *Understanding Global Social Policy, 3rd edition*. Bristol: The Policy Press.

	周永新 (2013)。社會政策的觀念和制度。香港：中華書局(香港)有限公司。
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