

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by College/School/Department of Public Policy
with effect from Semester A 2017 / 18**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title:	Introduction to Political Science
Course Code:	POL 2105
Course Duration:	1 Semester
Credit Units:	3
Level:	B2
Proposed Area: <i>(for GE courses only)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Humanities <input type="checkbox"/> Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations <input type="checkbox"/> Science and Technology
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Precursors: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Equivalent Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	SA2105 Introduction to Political Science *SA2931/SA2101 Introduction to Political Science (Note: * Non-credit unit system)
Exclusive Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

(A 150-word description about the course)

This course aims to examine the concepts of politics and the political interactions of different players in the arena of politics. This course constitutes a basic foundation for students to discover how governments operate and govern. Students will be taught the skills of creating critical political arguments and analysis.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs [#]	Weighting* (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Discover the operations of governments: the powers, functions and relationships of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.		X	X	
2.	Evaluate political issues and events: explain critically major political problems.		X	X	
3.	Detecting the relationships among political actors in the process of conflict resolution: different roles and contributions in the political process.		X	X	
4.	Evaluate the process of authoritative allocation of values: account for how political decisions are made.		X	X	
5.	Generate new perspectives of political events: project the likely development of political events.				X
6.	Recommend innovative solutions to political issues and debates: suggest prescriptions to resolve political conflicts.				X
		100%			

* If weighting is assigned to CILOs, they should add up to 100%.

[#] Please specify the alignment of CILOs to the Gateway Education Programme Intended Learning outcomes (PILOs) in Section A of Annex.

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.						Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
Presentation	to present critical views on political issues and events.		X					
Tutorial Discussion	to evaluate how political decisions are made.				X			
Lecture	to discover how government operates and rule through the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.	X						
Term Paper	to suggest innovative solutions to political issues and problems.						X	
Case Study	to generate possible scenarios of a specific political case.					X		
Commentary	to detect different roles and significance of each political actor.			X				

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.						Weighting*	Remarks
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
Continuous Assessment: 50%								
Term paper						X	30%	
Presentation		X					5%	
Discussion				X			5%	
Commentary			X				5%	
Case Study					X		5%	
Examination: <u>50</u> % (duration: 2 hours)								
* The weightings should add up to 100%.							100%	

Note:

If a course has both coursework and examination components, students are required to pass BOTH the coursework assessment AND the examination before they can be awarded an overall passing grade of the course.

Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Assessment Tasks	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1.Term Paper 2.Presentation 3.Discussion 4.Commentary 5.Case Study 6.Examination	High standard of discovery of the operations of government, evaluation of political issues and events, detection of the relationships among political actors, explanation of the process of authoritative allocation of values, prediction of the consequences of political events, and recommendation of	Fairly good discovery of the operations of government, evaluation of political issues and events, detection of the relationships among political actors, explanation of the process of authoritative allocation of values, prediction of the consequences of	Rudimentary discovery of the operations of government, evaluation of political issues and events, detection of the relationships among political actors, explanation of the process of authoritative allocation of values, prediction of the consequences of political events, and recommendation of creative solutions to political issues. Basic	Poor discovery of the operations of government, evaluation of political issues and events, detection of the relationships among political actors, explanation of the process of authoritative allocation of values, prediction of the consequences of political events, and recommendation of creative solutions to	Almost no discovery of the operations of government, evaluation of political issues and events, detection of the relationships among political actors, explanation of the process of authoritative allocation of values, prediction of the consequences of political events, and

	creative solutions to political issues. Excellent research, writing and communication skills.	political events, and recommendation of creative solutions to political issues. Good research, writing and communication skills.	research, writing and communication skills.	political issues. Weak research, writing and communication skills.	recommendation of creative solutions to political issues. Inadequate research, writing and communication skills.
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Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Politics. Authority. Legitimacy. Power. Approaches to Political Science. State. Executive. Legislature. Judiciary. Political parties. Interest groups. Electoral systems. Political socialization. Political culture. Political participation. Monarchy. Aristocracy. Democracy. Authoritarian, totalitarian and democratic governments. Presidential and parliamentary governments. Confederal, federal, and unitary governments.

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

1.	Lam, J (2014) <i>Politics and Government: An Introduction</i> . H.K.: Writers & Publishers Cooperative.
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2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

1.	Ball, A & Peters, B (2005) <i>Modern Politics and Government</i> , 7th ed. London: Macmillan.
2.	Bangura, A (1996) <i>Political Behaviour</i> . Lanham: University Press of America.
3.	Danziger, J (2003) <i>Understanding the Political World</i> . N.Y.: Longman.
4.	Cohen, J (ed.) (1996) <i>Constitution, Democracy and State Power</i> . Brookfield: Edward Elgar.
5.	Holler-Williams, R (1996) <i>Judges and Politics in the Contemporary Age</i> . London: Bowerdean Publishing Co.
6.	Katz, R (1997) <i>Democracy and Elections</i> . N.Y.: Oxford University Press.
7.	Mueller, D (1996) <i>Constitutional Democracy</i> . N.Y.: Oxford University Press.
8.	Ranney, A (1996) <i>Governing</i> , 7th ed. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall.
9.	Roskin, M (1997) <i>Political Science: An Introduction</i> , 6th ed. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall.
10.	Susser, B (1992) <i>Approaches to the Study of Politics</i> . N.Y.: Macmillan.
11.	Ware, A (1996) <i>Political Parties and Party Systems</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press.
12.	Winter, H (1992) <i>Conflict and Compromise</i> . N.Y.: Harper Collins.