

**City University of Hong Kong**  
**Course Syllabus**

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

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**Part I Course Overview**

**Course Title:** Comparative Politics

**Course Code:** POL3107

**Course Duration:** One semester

**Credit Units:** 3

**Level:** B3

Arts and Humanities

**Proposed Area:**  
*(for GE courses only)*

Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations

Science and Technology

**Medium of Instruction:** English

**Medium of Assessment:** English

**Prerequisites:**  
*(Course Code and Title)* Nil

**Precursors:**  
*(Course Code and Title)* Nil

**Equivalent Courses:**  
*(Course Code and Title)* SA3107 Comparative Government & Politics

**Exclusive Courses:**  
*(Course Code and Title)* None

## Part II Course Details

### 1. Abstract

(A 150-word description about the course)

This course aims to provide students with a comprehensive introduction to important concepts, theories and debates that underpin the study of comparative politics. This course will focus on several key topics, including:

- How to account for differences between autocracies and democracies
- Variations in the institutional forms taken by different political systems
- Political transitions
- The varying role of governments in national economies
- Differences in political culture and citizen participation

Examples will be drawn from a variety of democratic and nondemocratic countries, including the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, China, Nigeria, Iran, and Brazil.

### 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 <sup>#</sup>	Weighting* (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Detect the scope, nature, limitations, major features and the value of democratic and nondemocratic government		✓	✓	✓
2.	Appraise the trajectory of institutional development and how evolution of political institutions is related to socioeconomic and historical factors		✓	✓	✓
3.	Understand and critically analyse core concepts, theories and debates related to comparative politics		✓	✓	✓
4.	Reflect on the relevance of the experience of other countries' political development to the future of political change in Hong Kong		✓	✓	✓

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

100%

<sup>#</sup> 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	
Readings	Students are required to read the required reading before the lecture, and the essential readings before each tutorial	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Lectures	The lecturer will impart knowledge about important concepts, theories and debates related to comparative politics  Students will participate in in-class exercises designed to encourage critical reflection about the course materials	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Tutorials	Students will: -Discuss and debate concepts, theories and questions related to comparative politics, including how they relate to political change in Hong Kong  -Apply theoretical and conceptual knowledge in evaluating differences between different countries' political systems  -Give presentations on selected topics	✓	✓	✓	✓		
A combination of individual and group work:	Each student has to write an individual term essay on a selected topic -Students have to collaborate with others to prepare a presentation on selected topics -Students have to comment on each other's performance in presentations and analysis	✓	✓	✓	✓		

#### 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			
<b>Continuous Assessment: 100%</b>							
Tutorial participation	✓	✓	✓	✓		10%	Students are expected to attend each tutorial meeting and actively engage in the debate, exchange and discussion
Individual paper	✓	✓	✓	✓		25%	Students should read all assigned readings and integrate the insights raised in the tutorial discussion. Originality is highly appreciated and the paper should not be a summary of points listed in assigned readings. The paper has to be properly referenced.
Group presentation	✓	✓	✓	✓		15%	Members of the group have to arrange a fair distribution of work and each member should take an active part in the oral presentation and feedback parts. Substance of the argument, rather than the style and format of presentation is the main concern.
Take-home test	✓	✓	✓	✓		50%	
						<b>100%</b>	

\* The weightings should add up to 100%.

**5. Assessment Rubrics**

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

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
All		High standard of knowledge and highly innovative application of ideas concerning key concepts, theories and debates related to comparative politics. Strong ability to identify key challenges. Excellent research, writing and communication skills.	Fairly good understanding and fairly innovative application of ideas concerning key concepts, theories and debates related to comparative politics. Ability to identify key challenges. Good research, writing and communication skills.	Rudimentary understanding and limited innovative application of ideas concerning key concepts, theories and debates related to comparative politics. Weak ability to identify key challenges. Basic research, writing and communication skills.	Poor understanding of the main institutions and very limited innovative application of ideas concerning key concepts, theories and debates related to comparative politics. Very little ability to identify key challenges. Weak research, writing and communication skills.	Almost no knowledge and no innovative application of ideas concerning key concepts, theories and debates related to comparative politics. Almost no ability to identify key challenges. Inadequate research, writing and communication skills.

### 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.)

State formation; political regimes; identity; markets; governing institutions in democracies; electoral systems; social movements; authoritarian rule; regime change; political transition; globalisation

#### 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.	Orvis, Stephen and Drogus, Carol Ann (2014). <i>Introducing Comparative Politics: Concepts and Cases in Context (Third Edition)</i> (Washington, DC: CQ Press).
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##### 2.2 Additional Readings

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

1.	O'Neil, Patrick H., Fields, Karl, Share, Don (2013) <i>Cases in Comparative Politics (Fourth Edition)</i> (New York: W. W. Norton & Company).
2.	Daniele Caramani (ed) <i>Comparative Politics (Second Edition)</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press).
3.	Mark Kesselman, Joel Krieger, and William A. Joseph (eds) <i>Introduction to Comparative Politics: Political Challenges and Changing Ideas (Fifth Edition)</i> (Wadsworth: Cengage).
4.	Lijphart, Arend (2012) <i>Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries (Second Edition)</i> (New Haven: Yale University Press)