

City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

offered by College/School/Department of Public Policy
with effect from Semester B 2019 / 20

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Democracy and Democratization

Course Code: POL 3111

Course Duration: One semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: B3

Proposed Area:
(for GE courses only)

Arts and Humanities
 Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations
 Science and Technology

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) None

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) None

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) SA3111 Democracy and Democratization

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) None

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

(A 150-word description about the course)

This course aims to examine the basic features of democracy, its definitions, the causes of its emergence, as well as its strengths and problems. The course also examines the waves of democratization in the modern world, with particular emphasis on the global spread of democracies in the late 20th century and beyond, and applies the concepts of democracy and democratization to controversial questions like whether democracy is a universal value, whether it can promote human rights, whether there is an inherent conflict between the Confucian ethos and democracy, whether democracy leads to welfare-state, and whether democracy is favourable or unfavourable to economic development. The course attempts to assess some major challenges facing democracy, such as the China model and globalized capitalism. Students are required to critically evaluate the democratization process in some of the East Asian societies: Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea, China, Hong Kong and so on.

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.	Detect and identify the basic features of democracy and democratization.		√	√	
2.	Examine and recognize the major challenges for developing democracy in the world.		√	√	
3.	Assess and consider controversial questions concerning democracy and democratization.		√	√	
4.	Apply the concepts to evaluate the democratic development of some East Asia societies		√	√	√
		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			
Lecture	Explain concepts, theories, empirical data and raise questions for discussions.	√	√	√	√			2 hrs/13 weeks
Class discussion and in-class short exercises	Class discussion on some critical issues related to democracy and democratization in some actual states with short in-class short exercises.	√	√	√	√			1 hr/ 13 weeks
Essay writing	Each student to compose a term paper of no more than 3,000 words.	√	√	√	√			
Reading of reference materials and/or participation in online discussion	Read three or more assigned papers, book chapters, current affair commentaries and the relevant lecture notes per week and participate in Canvas' online discussion with fellow students and/or instructors on currents issues related to democracy and democratization	√	√	√	√			6hrs/week

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				
Continuous Assessment: 50 %								
Class discussion & short in-class exercise	√	√	√	√			15%	
Individual paper	√	√	√	√			35%	
Examination: 50 % (duration: 2 hours)								
							100%	

* The weightings should add up to 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.

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)
1. Individual paper	Ability to critically explain and evaluate the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and to apply knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond with students' original ideas.	Excellent understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and outstanding application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Strong ability to identify key challenges. Excellent research and writing skills with evidence to develop critical and independent analysis. Highly innovative ideas and critical attitude in analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.	Good understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and sound application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Good ability to identify key challenges. Competent research and writing skills with evidence to develop a number of critical and independent analysis. Innovative ideas and critical attitude in analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.	Satisfactory understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and appropriate application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Average ability to identify key challenges. Adequate research and writing skills with some evidence to develop critical and independent analysis. A few innovative ideas when analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.	Limited understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and weak application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Below average ability to identify key challenges. Weak research and writing skills with some evidence to develop critical and independent analysis. Lack of innovative ideas when analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.	Poor understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and weak application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Poor ability to identify key challenges. Poor research and writing skills with some evidence to develop critical and independent analysis. No innovative ideas when analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.
2. Class discussion & short exercises	Ability to engage in class discussion and demonstrated proofs in applying relevant concepts and ideas to introduce, discuss	High standard of engagement in class discussion. Outstanding application of the related concepts and ideas to critical issues	High standard of engagement in class discussion. Good application of the related concepts and ideas to critical issues related to democracy	Satisfactory standard of engagement in class discussion. Competent application of the related concepts and ideas to critical issues	Below average standard of engagement in class discussion. Limited application of the related concepts and ideas to critical issues	Poor standard of engagement in class discussion. Very weak application of the related concepts and ideas to critical issues related to democracy

	and evaluate critical issues related to democracy and democratization in a systematic and precise manner, both orally and in written form.	related to democracy and democratization. Excellent discussion, writing and presentation skills with innovative and original ideas.	and democratization. Very competent discussion, writing and presentation skills with some innovative and original ideas.	related to democracy and democratization. Competent discussion, writing and presentation skills with some innovative and original ideas.	related to democracy and democratization. Weak discussion, writing and presentation skills with few innovative and original ideas.	and democratization. Poor discussion, writing and presentation skills with inappropriate or irrelevant ideas.
3. Examination	Ability to critically explain and evaluate the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and to apply knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond with students' original ideas.	Excellent understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and outstanding application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Strong ability to identify key challenges. Excellent research and writing skills with evidence to develop critical and independent analysis. Highly innovative ideas and critical attitude in analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.	Good understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and sound application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Good ability to identify key challenges. Competent research and writing skills with evidence to develop a number of critical and independent analysis. Innovative ideas and critical attitude in analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.	Satisfactory understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and appropriate application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Average ability to identify key challenges. Adequate research and writing skills with some evidence to develop critical and independent analysis. A few innovative ideas when analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.	Limited understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and weak application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Below average ability to identify key challenges. Weak research and writing skills with some evidence to develop critical and independent analysis. Lack of innovative ideas when analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.	Poor understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and weak application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Poor ability to identify key challenges. Poor research and writing skills with some evidence to develop critical and independent analysis. No innovative ideas when analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.

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.)

Democracy; democratization; authoritarianism and totalitarianism; human rights; Asian values and the Confucian ethos; socio-economic development; modernization theory; elite-choice theory; state and civil society; social cleavages; political culture; political legitimacy; critics of democracy; conditions for democratic development; China model, globalization, waves of democratization; Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia, mainland China.

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.	Robert A. Dahl, <i>Democracy and Its Critics</i> , New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 1989
2.	Samuel P. Huntington, <i>The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century</i> , Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991
3.	Larry Diamond, <i>The Spirit of Democracy: The Struggle to Build Free Societies Throughout the World</i> , New York: Times Books, 2008
4.	Larry Diamond, Marc F. Plattner & Yun-han Chu, eds., <i>Democracy in East Asia: A New Century</i> , Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 2013
5.	David Runciman, <i>How Democracy Ends</i> , London: Profile Books, 2018

2.2 Additional Readings

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

1.	John Dunn, <i>Setting the People Free: The Story of Democracy</i> , London: Atlantic Books, 2005
2.	Fareed Zakaria, <i>The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad</i> , New York & London: W. W. Norton & Co., 2003
3.	Diamond & Plattner (eds.), <i>The Global Divergence of Democracies</i> , Baltimore & London: The John Hopkins University Press, 2001
4.	Shapiro & Hacker-Cordon (eds.), <i>Democracy's Edges</i> , Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999
5.	Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner, eds., <i>Liberation Technology: Social Media and the Struggle for Democracy</i> , Baltimore: the John Hopkins University Press, 2012
6.	Joseph Y. S. Cheng, ed., <i>New Trends of Political Participation in Hong Kong</i> , Hong Kong: City University of Hong Kong Press, 2014
7.	Lucian W. Pye, <i>Asian Power and Politics: The Cultural Dimensions of Authority</i> , Cambridge, Massachusetts & London, England: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1985