**The Hong Kong Polytechnic University**

**Subject Description Form**

Please read the notes at the end of the table carefully before completing the form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Code</th>
<th>GEC1B13</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject Title</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit Value</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion</td>
<td>Exclusion APSS229 Introduction to Politics</td>
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</table>

**Objectives**

A disinterest in politics or being politically ignorant is something that no conscientious citizen can afford. This subject serves as a foundation course in the study of politics. The objectives are to introduce students to the fundamentals of political science, including the nature of politics, key concepts in political science, different political ideologies, classification and operation of different political systems, political institutions, and political culture.

The subject will cover not just political theories and systems, but also political processes of different political systems. The success of political processes to channel disputes in a society can play a key role in ensuring a harmonious society, while their failure can lead to frustration that boils over into political instability, chaos, or revolution.

A comparative approach will be adopted in studying politics. Students will be able to learn how different politics are organized in democratic and non-democratic countries, and to compare different type of democracies, and authoritarian regimes. This subject will also help students to develop their analytical skills in tackling political issues and engaging in broad political questions and debates.

**In this subject, the following cluster specific attributes will be emphasized:**

- Use quantitative and qualitative data in analyzing social/political/economic issues;
- Consider various issues and their moral implications for local/national and global communities;
- Understand and critically evaluate different political systems, economic systems, and legal systems;
- Understand and critically evaluate different political ideologies and political philosophies;
- Consider and critically evaluate different approaches for studying local, national, and global problems; and
- Become better-informed citizens, well prepared to participate in public life and public decision-making.
### Intended Learning Outcomes

**(Note 1)**

Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:

(a) recognize the nature of politics;

(b) apply the major political concepts and reflect upon the political ideologies underlying social life with a critical stance;

(c) distinguish the classification of political systems and understand the government machinery;

(d) analyze various political issues and ethical dilemmas that they confront daily;

(e) increase their political awareness, civic consciousness and political sensitivity when exercising citizenship.

1. **Literacy**: In this subject, students will be required to engage in readings related to the study of political science. They are required to read the related chapter of the textbook before attending lectures. The quizzes will assess student’s understanding of those required reading, as well as lecture content. In addition, students are also required to write a short essay or a book report.

2. **High-order thinking**: By using different political concepts and political ideologies, students will be exposed to a variety of political perspectives. With a comparative understanding of different types of political systems and their political processes, students will understand how politics affect the lives of peoples in different contexts. Students shall possess competence in analyzing various political issues and be able to formulate their opinion in a critical manner.

3. **Life-long learning**: Students will gain a broad understanding of the field of political science and increase their political literacy and efficacy. The course will enhance students’ global understanding and concern, and sharpen students’ civic consciousness and ability when participating in public decision making and exercising their citizenship. Students will be encouraged to follow local/national/global affairs closely as a reflection on the conceptual knowledge they have developed throughout the course of the subject. Students will be better equipped to be responsible global citizens for the 21st century.

### Subject Synopsis/Indicative Syllabus

**(Note 2)**

1. **What is politics, the study of politics & political science**

2. **Key concepts in political science: Power, states, & nations**

3. **Political Ideologies**
   - A. Liberalism
   - B. Conservatism
   - C. Socialism
   - D. Feminism
   - E. Environmentalism

4. **Authoritarianism & Totalitarianism**
   - A. Forms of authoritarian rule
   - B. Six-point syndrome of totalitarianism
C. Nondemocratic regime and political control
D. Sources of nondemocratic rule: economic, socio-cultural explanation.

5. **Democracy & Democratization**
   A. Direct democracy and representative democracy
   B. 8 institutional guarantees for democracy
   C. Comparing democracies
   D. Huntington’s 3 waves of democratization and the reverse wave

6. **Interest groups, political parties, & elections**
   A. Interest groups compared: democracy and nondemocracy
   B. Political parties: functions, party systems
   C. Elections compared: democracy and nondemocracy
   D. Voting behaviour and theories of voting

7. **Governing democracies: Executives, legislatures, & judiciaries**
   A. Presidential system: The US Model
   B. Parliamentary system: The UK Model

8. **Political culture and political socialization**

9. **Gender and politics**
   A. Gender, patriarchy, and the public-private divide
   B. Gender and political representation

10. **Analyzing international relations**
    A. Realist models
    B. Liberal models
    C. Radical models

11. **International politics:**
    A. Key terms and concepts: international, supranational, multinational corporations, non-governmental actors (NGOs), globalization.
    B. International politics occurs between: individuals, corporations, governments, NGOs, international organizations.

12. **International relations: Contemporary issues**

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**Teaching/Learning Methodology**

*Note 3*

**Lectures:**
This subject will be taught primarily using a lecture format. Lectures will closely follow selected chapters of the assigned textbook or other reference.

There will be 3 hours lecture plus teaching and learning activities assigned for each week. For the first 2 hours of each week, lecture will be given by the
instructor. Major concepts, historical events, and analytical perspectives will be given primarily through lectures. The third hour will be used to conduct more lively teaching and learning activities, including conducting video show or TV documentaries, watching TV debates of the US Presidential election; or the UK general election debates, or debate of world leaders in different parts of the world. Student will be asked to participate in class discussion and to raise question concerning their assigned reading or the audio-visual materials.

Assessment:
Grading in this subject is based entirely on Continuous Assessment components, including class participation and quizzes. The quizzes will access students understanding on lecture content, as well as the assigned reading not directly covered in lecture.

Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific assessment methods/tasks</th>
<th>% weighting</th>
<th>Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Mid-term quiz</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>√ a √ b √ c √ d √ e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Term-end quiz</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>√ a √ b √ c √ d √ e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
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Student Study Effort Expected

Class contact: Lectures 39 Hrs.

Other student study effort:
- Reading and self-study 40 Hrs.
- Prepare for short writing assignment and the quizzes 40 Hrs.

Total student study effort 119 Hrs.

Reading List and References

Text book (Required reading):

Other additional extensive reading:
Hague, R. & Martin Harrop. (2007). Political Science: A Comparative
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction. N.Y.: Palgrave Macmillan.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>陳岳 (2010)。《國際政治學概論》。北京：中國人民大學出版社。</td>
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<td>鄭宇碩, 羅金義編著 (2009)。《政治學新探：中華經驗與西方學理》。香港：中文大學出版社。</td>
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<tr>
<td>James N. Danziger 著；胡祖慶譯 (2009)。《政治學》。台北：五南圖書出版股份有限公司。</td>
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<td>金太軍主編 (2006)。《政治學新編》。上海：華東師範大學出版社。</td>
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<td>Andrew Heywood 著，楊日青、李培元等譯 (1999)。《政治學新論》。台北：韋伯文化事業。</td>
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</table>

**Note 1: Intended Learning Outcomes**
Intended learning outcomes should state what students should be able to do or attain upon completion of the subject. Subject outcomes are expected to contribute to the attainment of the overall programme outcomes.

**Note 2: Subject Synopsis/Indicative Syllabus**
The syllabus should adequately address the intended learning outcomes. At the same time over-crowding of the syllabus should be avoided.

**Note 3: Teaching/Learning Methodology**
This section should include a brief description of the teaching and learning methods to be employed to facilitate learning, and a justification of how the methods are aligned with the intended learning outcomes of the subject.

**Note 4: Assessment Method**
This section should include the assessment method(s) to be used and its relative weighting, and indicate which of the subject intended learning outcomes that each method purports to assess. It should also provide a brief explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Offering Department</th>
<th>GEC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cluster Area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Human Nature, Relations and Development</td>
<td>☑ Community, Organization and Globalisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ History, Cultures and World Views</td>
<td>☐ Science, Technology and Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium of Instruction</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements intended to fulfil</td>
<td>☐ China-Study Requirement (CSR)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ English Reading (ER) and English Writing (EW)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Chinese Reading (CR) and Chinese Writing (CW)</td>
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