

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Subject Description Form

Subject Code	APSS1130 / APSS1B31												
Subject Title	Introduction to Politics												
Credit Value	3												
Level	1												
GUR Requirements Intended to Fulfill	<p>This subject intends to fulfill the following requirement(s) :</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Lifestyle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Freshman Seminar</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Languages and Communication Requirement (LCR)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leadership and Intra-Personal Development</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Service-Learning</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cluster-Area Requirement (CAR)</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Human Nature, Relations and Development</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community, Organization and Globalization</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> History, Cultures and World Views</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Science, Technology and Environment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> China-Study Requirement</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Writing and Reading Requirements</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> English or <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese</p>												
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion	<p><u>Exclusion</u> :</p> <p>For students taking APSS1130, the exclusion subjects are APSS113, APSS1B31 & GEC1B13.</p> <p>For students taking APSS1B31, the exclusion subjects are APSS113, APSS1130 & GEC1B13.</p>												
Assessment Methods	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">100% Continuous Assessment</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Individual Assessment</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Group Assessment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Written Assignment</td> <td>--</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Presentation & Participation</td> <td>--</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Quizzes</td> <td>50%</td> <td>--</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	100% Continuous Assessment	Individual Assessment	Group Assessment	1. Written Assignment	--	30%	2. Presentation & Participation	--	20%	3. Quizzes	50%	--
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1. Written Assignment	--	30%											
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3. Quizzes	50%	--											

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grade is calculated according to the percentage assigned; • The completion and submission of all component assignments are required for passing the subject; and • Student must pass the quiz(zes) with at least grade D if he/she is to pass the subject.
Objectives	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The subject aims to enable students to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. acquire an understanding of the basic political concepts and processes that affect society; 2. develop their analytical skills in understanding political issues and political ideologies; 3. enhance their political awareness in a fast changing world.
Intended Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. apply the basic political concepts and theories to analyze political issues and debates; b. reflect upon the political ideologies underlying society with a critical stance; c. assess the trend and political consequences of globalization and changing communication technologies.
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction – the study of politics & political science 2. Key concepts – power, state, nation, civil society 3. Political ideologies 4. Nature and role of government 5. Democracy – theory and practice 6. Elections, political parties, interest groups, and public opinion 7. Political culture and political socialization 8. International politics and globalization
Teaching/Learning Methodology	<p>Lectures are employed to facilitate students’ learning of the subject. The lectures introduce students to the major political concepts and theories. The instructors also demonstrate the basic skills of conceptual analysis and critical inquiry. Besides,</p>

	students are encouraged to discuss and analyze various social and political issues with reference to those concepts and skills they have learnt.							
Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)					
			a	b	c			
	1. Written assignment	30%	✓	✓	✓			
	2. Presentation & participation	20%	✓	✓	✓			
	3. Quizzes	50%	✓	✓	✓			
Total	100 %							
	<p>Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:</p> <p>The assessment methods employed should be able to assess students' analytical ability (indicated by written assignment), verbal skills (presentation) and ability to work as a team (in presentation and participation); and basic and essential knowledge of the subject. The quizzes will assess students' understanding on lecture content, as well as the assigned reading not directly covered in lecture.</p>							
Student Study Effort Expected	Class contact:							
	▪ Lecture		39 Hrs.					
	Other student study effort:							
	▪ Self-studies (including preparation for lectures, writing term paper, revision and preparation for the quizzes)		65 Hrs.					
	Total student study effort		104 Hrs.					
Reading List and References	<u>Essential</u>							
	<p>Stoker, Gerry (2017). <i>Why Politics Matters</i> (2nd ed.). London: Palgrave</p> <p>Heywood, A. (2019). <i>Politics</i> (4th ed.). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.</p>							
	<u>Supplementary</u>							
	<p>Brodie, J., & Rein, S. (Eds.). (2009). <i>Critical concepts: An introduction to politics</i> (4th ed.). Toronto. ON: Pearson/Prentice Hall.</p>							

	<p>Dyck, R. (2009). <i>Studying politics: An introduction to political science</i> (3rd ed.). Toronto, ON: Thomson/Nelson Education.</p> <p>Elwert, F., & Winship, C. (2014). Endogenous selection bias: The problem of conditioning on a collider variable. <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i>, 40, 31-53.</p> <p>Kesselman, M., Kriegar, J., & Joseph, W.A. (2010). <i>Introduction to comparative politics: Political challenges and changing agendas</i> (5th ed.). Boston, MA: Wadsworth.</p> <p>Magstadt, T. M. (2013). <i>Understanding politics: Ideas, institutions, and issues</i> (10th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/ Cengage Learning.</p> <p>O' Neil, P. H. (2010). <i>Essentials of comparative politics</i> (3rd ed.). New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company.</p> <p>Roskin, M.G., Cord, R.L., Medeiros, J.A., & Jones, W.S. (2014). <i>Political science: An introduction</i> (13th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Longman.</p> <p>Shively, W.P. (2012). <i>Power and choice: An introduction to political science</i> (13th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.</p>
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