The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Subject Description Form

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

Subject Code	APSS1130 / APSS1BN31
Subject Title	Introduction to Politics
Credit Value	3
Level	1
GUR Requirements Intended to Fulfill	This subject intends to fulfill the following requirement(s) : ☐ **Healthy Lifestyle** ☐ **AI and Data Analytics (AIDA)** ☐ **Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IE)** ☐ **Languages and Communication Requirement (LCR)** ☐ **Leadership Education and Development (LEAD)** ☐ **Service-Learning** ☒ **Cluster-Area Requirement (CAR)** 　☐ Human Nature, Relations and Development [CAR A] 　☐ Science, Technology and Environment [CAR D] 　☐ Chinese History and Culture [CAR M] 　☒ Cultures, Organizations, Societies and Globalization [CAR N] ☐ **China-Study Requirement** 　☐ Yes or ☒ No ☐ **Writing and Reading Requirements** 　☐ English or ☐ Chinese
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion	Exclusion : For students taking APSS1130, the exclusion subjects are APSS113, APSS1B31, APSS1BN31, APSS229 and GEC1B13 For students taking APSS1BN31, the exclusion subjects are APSS113, APSS1130, APSS1B31, APSS229 and GEC1B13

Assessment Methods

100% Continuous Assessment	Individual Assessment	Group Assessment
1. Written Assignment	30%	--
2. Quizzes	70%	--

- 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 all component(s) if he/she is to pass the subject.

Objectives	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. 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. The subject aims to enable students to: 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 *(Note 1)*	Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to: 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 *(Note 2)*	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 *(Note 3)*	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, 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 *(Note 4)*	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)		
			a	b	c
	1. Written assignment	30%	✓	✓	✓
	2. Quizzes	70%	✓	✓	✓
	Total	100%			

Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:

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 access students' understanding on lecture content, as well as the assigned reading not directly covered in lecture.

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** | Essential

Stoker, Gerry (2017). *Why Politics Matters* (2nd ed.). London: Palgrave.

Heywood, A. (2019). Politics (4rd 5th ed.). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Supplementary

Brodie, J., & Rein, S. (Eds.). (2009). *Critical concepts: An introduction to politics* (4th ed.). Toronto. ON: Pearson/Prentice Hall.

Dyck, R. (2009). *Studying politics: An introduction to political scien*ce (3rd ed.)Toronto. ON: Thomson/Nelson Education. |
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| | Elwert, F., & Winship, C. (2014). *Endogenous selection bias: The problem of conditioning on a collider variable.* Annual Review of Sociology, 40, 31-53.

Kesselman, M., Kriegar, J., & Joseph, W.A. (2010*). Introduction to comparative politics: Political challenges and changing agendas* (5th ed.). Boston, MA: Wadsworth.

Magstadt, T. M. (2013). *Understanding politics: Ideas, institutions, and issues* (10th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/ Cengage Learning.

O' Neil, P. H. (2010). *Essentials of comparative politics* (3rd ed.). New York, NY.W.W. Norton & Company.

Roskin, M.G., Cord, R.L., Medeiros, J.A., & Jones, W.S. (2014). *Political science: An introduction* (13th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Longman.

Shively, W.P. (2012). *Power and choice: An introduction to political science* (13th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill. |

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.