

Subject Description Form

Subject Code	APSS502		
Subject Title	Social Policy Analysis and Social Accountability		
Credit Value	3		
Level	5		
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion	Nil		
Assessment Methods	100% Continuous Assessment	Individual Assessment	Group Assessment
	1. Term paper	60%	--
	2. Policy presentation	30%	--
	3. Participation	10%	--
	▪ 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 components at 50% or grade D if he/she is to pass the subject.		
Objectives	The general objective of this subject is to develop scholarly ability in social policy analysis and social analysis, with special emphasis on reflective and critical thinking. Specific objectives are: 1. To examine the process of social policy formation and implementation, and its impact on social development, especially in terms of social equality and social justice. Special attention will be paid to understand the complexity and interconnectedness of various social problems and policies; 2. To critically evaluate the various approaches in social policy analysis, and their relevance and applicability in local context; 3. To understand the philosophical and epistemological basis of various theoretical approaches, and the value conflicts and dilemmas in policy making; and 4. To help the students to critically review their values and approaches in analysing social policy and social problems, so as to develop a more reflective attitude in their professional practice.		
Intended Learning Outcomes	Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to: a. Show in-depth understanding of the current debates and discussions about social issues and policy reaction		

	b. Acknowledge the arguments inherited in various theoretical perspectives of social policy analysis, how they can be applied in the local context, accounting for their strengths and weaknesses; c. Develop their own framework for analysing social policy and development issues with clear visions for social accountability in professional practice; d. Articulate and critically reflect on values and philosophies in analysing and practicing social policy and social development; e. Socially responsible leaders with a strong sense of national pride and a global outlook; f. Future-ready professionals who possess technical acumen; g. Become Critical Thinker and Innovative Problem Solvers; h. Become Effective Communicators and Collaborators; and i. Become Adaptable and Resilient Life-long Learners
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	1. Scope and Approaches in Policy Analysis Scope and boundary of social policy Development of policy analysis as an art and science 2. Policy Analysis in local and global contexts Political culture and political economic context Policy making in Hong Kong in context of globalization Globalization and global social policy Social policy in a risk society 3. Theories of Social Policy and Social Analysis Classical theories: Fabianism, social democracy, Third Way, New Right, Marxism and Neo-Marxism Contemporary theories: E.g., feminism, anti-racism, critical theory, post-structuralism, postmodernism, anti-oppressive practices 4. Power and Accountability in Social Policy Power, knowledge, rationality and accountability The role of bureaucracy, professionals, interest groups, and NGOs in the formation and implementation of social policy New Managerialism Professionalism 5. Contemporary Issues in Social Policy Analysis and Social Development (certain topics will be covered in each year) Gender inequality Minority groups and discrimination Aging society and ageism Family crisis and issues Marginalization of young people and youth policy Education reform and education policy Rethinking work, employment and unemployment Health services and re-conceptualizing health Housing inequalities Poverty and distributional justice Social security and retirement protection Citizenship, social exclusion and inclusion Privatization and commodification of social services McDonaldization of social services

Teaching/Learning Methodology	This subject aims at providing further training to students in developing fuller ability in understanding and practicing social policy, with special emphasis on reflective and critical thinking. Students are required to integrate policy and social analysis, incorporating social, economic, political, and cultural contexts. An interactive approach in which dialogues and debates are featured in lectures and seminars to assist students to consolidate their knowledge. Students are also encouraged to articulate and reflect on their values, assumptions, and philosophies underpinning their analysis of social policy and issues in their seminar activities and projects.					
Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed			
			a	b	c	d
	1. Term paper	60%	✓	✓	✓	✓
	2. Policy presentation	30%	✓	✓	✓	✓
	3. Participation	10%	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Total	100%				
	Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:					
	Term paper will allow students to integrate major concepts, theory and methods they have learnt in the subject to demonstrate their knowledge and competence in the field of study. Students can also indicate the effectiveness of their proficiency in communicating ideas, creativity and critical thinking, appropriateness and critical insights in making judgment, and handling complex ethical and social issues.					
	Policy presentation and participation will provide an additional opportunity for students to display the learning outcomes as described above. This will also allow them to make evident their competence in communicating ideas and learning experience in an interactive, student-centred and problem-based setting. Students as a team will need to select one of the given policy areas, and prepare an in-class presentation and discussion.					
	Student Study Effort Expected	Class contact:				
▪ Lecture and Policy Presentation				39 Hrs.		
Other student study effort:						
▪ Self Study				42 Hrs.		
▪ Preparation for Term Paper				20 Hrs.		
▪ Preparation for Policy Presentation				8 Hrs.		
Total student study effort				109 Hrs.		
Reading List and References	<u>Essential</u>					

	Alcock, P. (Ed.). (2022). <i>The student's companion to social policy</i> (6th edition.). Hoboken, NJ ; John Wiley & Sons Ltd. Blakemore, K. (2020). <i>Social policy: an introduction, 4th edition</i>. Maidenhead: Open University Press. [Electronic Resource] Hartley, D. (2015). <i>Social rights and human welfare</i>. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge. [Electronic Resource] Lister, R., Patrick, R., & Brown, K. (2024). <i>Understanding Theories and Concepts in Social Policy</i> (2nd edition.). Bristol, UK: Bristol University Press. <u>Supplementary</u> Alcock, C., Daly, G., & Griggs, E. (2013). <i>Introducing social policy, 2nd edition</i>. Harlow: Pearson/Longman. Baldock, J., Manning, N., Vickerstaff, S., & Mitton, L. (2012). <i>Social policy, 4th edition</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Bochel, H. M., & Daly, G. (Eds.) (2021). <i>Social policy, 4th edition</i>. Oxon: Routledge. Coffey, A. (2004). <i>Reconceptualizing social policy: Sociological perspectives on contemporary social policy</i>. Maidenhead, UK: Open University Press. Chiu, R. L. H. & Ha, S. G. (2018). <i>Housing policy, wellbeing and social development in Asia</i> (Routledge studies in international real estate). Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge. Ferguson, I., Lavalette, M., & Mooney, G. (2002). <i>Rethinking welfare: a critical perspective</i>. London: Sage Publication. Fitzpatrick, T. (2005). <i>New theories of welfare</i>. Basingstoke, New York: Palgrave Macmillan. Hartley, D. (2019). <i>Social policy (short introduction), 3rd edition</i>. Cambridge: Policy Press. Hill, M., & Irving, Z. (2009). <i>Understanding social policy, 8th edition</i>. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell. Midgley, J., Surender, R., & Alfes, L. (Eds.) (2019). <i>Handbook of social policy and development</i>. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing. Jordan, B. (2010). <i>What's wrong with social policy and how to fix it</i>. Cambridge: Polity Press. Pierson, C., & Castles, F. G., & Naumann, I. K. (Eds.) (2014). <i>The welfare state reader, 3rd edition</i>. UK: Polity Press. Thomas, V., & Chindarkar, N. (2019). <i>Economic Evaluation of Sustainable Development. Singapore</i>. Springer Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan. Yeates, N. (2014). <i>Understanding global social policy (2nd edition)</i>. Bristol: The Policy Press.
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	王卓祺、鄧廣良、魏雁濱（編）（2007）【兩岸三地社會政策－理論與實務】，香港：中文大學出版社。 陳錦華、王志錚（編）（2004）【香港社會政策評論】，香港：中文大學出版社。 <u>Journals</u> Critical Social Policy Global Social Policy International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy Journal of Asian Public Policy Journal of Public Policy Journal of Social Policy Policy and Politics Social Policy and Society
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