Subject Description Form

Subject Code	APSS3230
Subject Title	Theories of Social Policy
Credit Value	3
Level	3
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion	Nil

Assessment Methods			

100% Continuous Assessment	Individual Assessment	Group Assessment
1. Individual term paper	50%	--
2. Seminar presentation	--	35%
3. Participation	15%	--

- Student must obtain Grade D or above for all components if he/she is to pass the subject.

Objectives	The objectives of this subject are to a) introduce students to the key concepts and theoretical approaches in social policy studies; b) demonstrate different models of decision-making and policy formulation; c) develop a critical and comparative approach to the analysis of current social policy issues; d) explore innovative ways to solve social problems.
Intended Learning Outcomes	Upon successful completion of the subject, students will be able to: a. understand major concepts and theoretical perspectives in social policy; b. explain different policy-making models; c. apply relevant concepts, theories and models to analyze social policy and relevant social issues; d. demonstrate competence in interpreting major social policy and social development issues in Hong Kong and other East Asia societies from a comparative perspective; e. evaluate existing social services and social policy independently and critically f. develop a vision on trends and further development of social policy
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	1. Introduction and Overview - The definition of social policy - Relationship with economics and other domains - Social policy environment in East Asia 2. Theories of social policy

	- Fabianism, social administration and the concept of welfare state
	
	- Social democracy
	
	- Neo-liberalism and the new right
	
	- The third way and mixed economy
	
	- Social development
	
	3. Major models of policymaking process
	
	   - The stages model of policymaking process
	
	   - The systems model of policymaking process
	
	   - Three streams model of policymaking process
	
	   - Evidence-based policymaking process
	
	4. Comparative analysis of emerging policy issues in Hong Kong and elsewhere
	
	   - Comparative analysis of housing policy in Hong Kong and Singapore
	
	   - Comparative analysis of retirement protection system in Hong Kong, Singapore and Canada
	
	   - Comparative analysis of long-term care system in Hong Kong, Japan, and the United Kingdom
	
	5. Theoretical debates in social policy analysis
	
	   - Esping-Andersen: The three worlds of welfare capitalism, welfare state regimes
	
	   - Diversity, social exclusion and inclusion
	
	   - Globalization and global social policy
	
	   - Social policy and social justice

Teaching/Learning Methodology	This subject consists of a series of relevant lectures and group discussions. Since the major aim of this subject is to develop critical thinking and analytical power, an interactive approach is adopted to encourage discussions and debates on social policy theories and issues. Debates on social policy theories and case studies will be highlighted in lectures for discussion. Students are also required to present selected policy theories in the last three lectures, through which they learn to develop knowledge in a specific area and to articulate their arguments systematically.
Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes	(see table below)

Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)					
		a	b	c	d	e	f
1. Term Paper	50%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Group presentation	35%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Participation	15%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Total	100%						

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

Term Paper (Individual)

Students are required to submit an individual term paper of 3,000 words including title page, executive summary, tables, figures, and references. Students should choose to work on a specific social issue or a policy area that they find interesting and relevant to the subject content. Students need to conduct literature review and conceptual analysis on that topic by applying appropriate theories and models. The paper should be presented clearly in an academically relevant approach; factual evidence as well as analytical reasoning are both necessary.

Group Presentation

Students in small groups will prepare and conduct presentation on a designated topic. They are expected to illustrate their analyses of local policy issues and social problems. Data and statistics are important to substantiate their arguments. Students are also expected to motivate fellow students to take part in discussion and debate, and they also need to respond to challenges and questions appropriately. The seminar sessions will provide a platform for participatory learning; to brush up students' analytical ability and to develop skills in effective communications in policy debates.

Participation

Merits will be given to those who participate actively and constructively in class. Class attendance and participation are considered important for this course. Class participation may not be directly graded; however, the involvement in the class will influence the final grade, particularly if the student is between two grades.

Student Study Effort Required	Class contact:	
	▪ Lectures	39 Hrs.
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Reading Subject Materials	20 Hrs.
	▪ Preparation for Group Presentation	28 Hrs.
	▪ Term Paper Writing	28 Hrs.
	Total student study effort	115 Hrs.
Medium of Instruction	English	
Medium of Assessment	English	
Reading List and References	**<u>Essential</u>**	

Alcock, Pete; May, Margaret & Rowlingson, Karen (ed.) (2008). *The Student's Companion to Social Policy, 3nd edition.* U.K.: Blackwell, reprint.

Fitzpatrick, Tony (2011) *Welfare Theory: an introduction to the theoretical debates in social policy*, *2nd edition*, Basingstoke and New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Supplementary

Alcock, Cliff; Daly, Guy and Griggs, Edwin (2008) *Introducing Social Policy, 2nd edition*, Harlow: Pearson/Longman.

Chow, N.W.S., Wong, Y.C., Chan, W.S., Ho, K.M., & Bai, X. (2014). Research Report on Future Development of Retirement Protection in Hong Kong.

Baldock, John; Manning, Nick; and Vickerstaff, Sarah (ed.) (2007) *Social Policy 3rd edition*, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

Blakemore, Ken and Griggs, Edwin (2007) *Social Policy: an introduction, 3rd edition*, Buckingham: Open University Press.

Blau, Joel and Abramovitz, Mimi (2010) *The Dynamics of Social Welfare Policy,3rd edition*, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

Ferguson, Iain; Lavalette, Michael and Mooney, Gerry (2002) *Rethinking Welfare: A Critical Perspective*, London, Thousand Oaks, and New Delhi: Sage Publication.

Fitzpatrick, Tony (2001). *Welfare Theory: an introduction.* Basingstoke and New York: Palgrave.

George, V. and Wilding, P. (1994). *Welfare and Ideology.* U.K.: Harvester Wheatsheaf.

Hill, Michael and Irving, Ze (2009) *Understanding social policy, 8th edition*, Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.

Lewis, Gail; Clarke, John; and Gewirtz, Sharon (ed.) (2000) *Rethinking Social Policy*, London: Sage Publication.

O'Brien, Martin and Penna, Sue (1998) *Theorising Welfare: Enlightenment and Modern Society*, London: SAGE.

Pascall, Gillian (2012) *Gender Equality in the Welfare State?*, Bristol: Policy Press.

Wilding, Paul; Hugue, Ahmed Shafiqul and Tao; Julia Lai Po-wah (ed.) (1997). *Social Policy in Hong Kong.* U.K.: Edward Elgar.

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。

李健正、趙維生、梁麗清、陳錦華（合編）（1999）*新社會政策*，香港：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。