

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	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">100% Continuous Assessment</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Individual Assessment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Term paper</td> <td style="text-align: center;">60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Policy presentation</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Participation</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <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 all components at 50% or grade D if he/she is to pass the subject. 		100% Continuous Assessment	Individual Assessment	1. Term paper	60%	2. Policy presentation	30%	3. Participation	10%
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Objectives	<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 the 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	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Acknowledge the arguments inherited in various theoretical perspectives of social 									

	<p>policy analysis, how they can be applied in the local context, accounting for their strengths and weaknesses;</p> <p>b. Develop their own framework for analyzing social policy and development issues with clear visions for social accountability in professional practice; and</p> <p>c. Articulate and initially reflect on values and philosophies in analyzing and practicing social policy and social development.</p>
<p>Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scope and Approaches in Policy Analysis Scope and boundary of social policy Rational-technocratic approach vs. interpretative-normative approach Development of policy analysis as an art and science 2. Policy Analysis within the Hong Kong Polity Political culture and political economic context Economic development vs. social development Policy making in Hong Kong under the global context 3. Theories of Social Policy and Social Analysis Classical theories: individualist, functionalist, corporatism, Fabianism, social democracy, the Third Way, New Right, Marxism and Neo-Marxism Contemporary theories: feminism, anti-racism, critical theory, post-structuralism, postmodernism, anti-oppressive practices 4. Power and Rationality in Decision-making Power and decision making Power, knowledge, and rationality Power, interest intermediation and corporatism 5. Basic Concepts and Issues in Social Accountability The quest for public good, social development and social accountability Evaluation, audit, accountability and neo-conservatism The role of bureaucracy, professionals, interest groups, and NGOs in the formation and implementation of social policy Professionalism New Managerialism 6. Contemporary Issues & Themes in Social Policy Analysis and Social Development Women, men, and gender inequality New immigrants, racial and ethnic 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 and urban policies Poverty and distributional justice Social security and retirement protection Citizenship, social exclusion and inclusion

	Green social policy Privatization and commodification of social services McDonaldization of social services Social policy in a risk society Globalization and global social policy																															
Teaching/Learning Methodology	This subject aims at providing further training to students in developing fuller ability in understanding and practicing social policy and social development, 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	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Specific assessment methods/tasks</th> <th rowspan="2">% weighting</th> <th colspan="3">Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed</th> </tr> <tr> <th>a</th> <th>b</th> <th>c</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Term paper</td> <td>60%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Policy presentation</td> <td>30%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Participation</td> <td>10%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>100%</td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed			a	b	c	1. Term paper	60%	✓	✓	✓	2. Policy presentation	30%	✓	✓	✓	3. Participation	10%	✓	✓	✓	Total	100%			
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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 a 30-minutes presentation and further discussion.																																
Student Study Effort Expected	Class contact:																															
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lecture and Policy Presentation 		39 Hrs.																													
	Other student study effort:																															

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Self Study 	42 Hrs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparation for Term Paper 	20 Hrs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparation for Policy Presentation 	8 Hrs.
	Total student study effort	109 Hrs.
Medium of Instruction	English supplemented with Chinese	
Medium of Assessment	English	
Reading List and References	<p><u>Essential</u></p> <p>Alcock, P., May, M., & Wright, S. (Eds.) (2012.) <i>The student's companion to social policy</i> (4rd ed.). Malden: Wiley-Blackwell Publisher.</p> <p>Blakemore, K. (2013). <i>Social policy: an introduction</i> (4th ed.). Maidenhead: Open University Press. [Electronic Resource]</p> <p>Lavalette, M., & Pratt, A. (Eds.) (2006). <i>Social policy: Theories, concepts and issues</i> (3rd ed.). London, Thousand Oaks, New Dehli: Sage Publication.</p> <p>Lewis, G., Gewirtz, S., & Clarke, John (Eds.) (2000). <i>Rethinking social policy</i>. London: The Open University Press and Sage Publication.</p> <p>李健正、趙維生、梁麗清、陳錦華（合編）（1999）【新社會政策】，香港：中文大學出版社。</p> <p><u>Supplementary</u></p> <p>Alcock, C., Daly, G., & Griggs, E. (2008). <i>Introducing social policy</i> (2nd ed.). Harlow: Pearson/Longman.</p> <p>Baldock, J., Manning, N., Vickerstaff, S., & Mitton, L. (2012). <i>Social policy</i> (4th ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Bochel, H. M., & Daly, G. (Eds.) (2014). <i>Social policy</i> (3rd ed.). London: Routledge.</p> <p>Clarke, J. (2004). <i>Changing welfare, changing state: New directions in social policy</i>. Thousand Oaks: Sage.</p> <p>Coffey, A. (2004). <i>Reconceptualizing social policy: Sociological perspectives on contemporary social policy</i>. Maidenhead, UK: Open University Press.</p> <p>Ferguson, I., Lavalette, M., & Mooney, G. (2002). <i>Rethinking welfare: a critical perspective</i>. London: Sage Publication.</p>	

	<p>Fitzpatrick, T. (2005). <i>New theories of welfare</i>. Basingstoke, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.</p> <p>Fitzpatrick, T., Kwon, H. J., Manning, N., Midgley, J., & Pascall, G. (Eds.) (2006). <i>International encyclopedia of social policy</i>. London, New York: Routledge.</p> <p>Hartley, D. (2012). <i>Social policy (short introduction)</i> (2nd ed.). Cambridge: Policy Press.</p> <p>Hartley, D. (2015). <i>Social rights and human welfare</i>. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge. [Electronic Resource]</p> <p>Hill, M., & Irving, Z. (2009). <i>Understanding social policy</i> (8th ed.). Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.</p> <p>Jordan, B. (2006). <i>Social policy for the twenty-first century</i>. Cambridge: Polity Press.</p> <p>Jordan, B. (2010). <i>What's wrong with social policy and how to fix it</i>. Cambridge: Polity Press.</p> <p>Pascall, G. (1997). <i>Social policy: a new feminist analysis</i>. U.K.: Routledge.</p> <p>Pierson, C., & Castles, F. G., & Naumann, I. K. (Eds.) (2014). <i>The welfare state reader</i> (3rd ed.). UK: Polity Press.</p> <p>Wilding, P., Hugue, A. S., & Tao Lai, P. W. J (Eds.) (1997). <i>Social policy in Hong Kong</i>, UK: Edward Elgar.</p> <p>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。</p> <p>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。</p> <p>謝君才（編）（2002）【我們的地方、我們的時間：香港社會新編】，香港：牛津大學出版社。</p> <p><u>Important Journals and periodicals</u></p> <p>Asian Pacific Journal of Social Work</p> <p>Critical Social Policy</p> <p>Global Social Policy</p> <p>Hong Kong Journal of Social Work</p> <p>International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy</p> <p>Journal of Asian Public Policy</p> <p>Journal of Public Policy</p> <p>Journal of Social Policy</p>
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