

## Subject Description Form

<b>Subject Code</b>	APSS4522											
<b>Subject Title</b>	Health Policy											
<b>Credit Value</b>	3											
<b>Level</b>	4											
<b>Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion</b>	<u>Pre-requisite :</u> APSS3230 Theories of Social Policy											
<b>Assessment Methods</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%;">100% Continuous Assessment</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Individual Assessment</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Group Assessment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Seminar presentation &amp; attendance</td> <td style="text-align: center;">--</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Term paper</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50 %</td> <td style="text-align: center;">--</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			100% Continuous Assessment	Individual Assessment	Group Assessment	1. Seminar presentation & attendance	--	50 %	2. Term paper	50 %	--
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<b>Objectives</b>	<p>The subject aims to :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. equip students with essential knowledge and concepts of health and health policy</li> <li>2. sensitize students about political, social, cultural and economic factors which contribute to the development of health policy in Hong Kong.</li> <li>3. introduce students to the main theoretical approaches to understanding the dynamics of health policy processes at both national and international levels</li> <li>4. explore in greater depth the frameworks of health policy analysis.</li> <li>5. foster a critical approach in the evaluation of health policy formulation</li> </ol>											
<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Show a thorough understanding on the individual, environmental, social and structural determinants of health and their relationships with health policy</li> <li>b. Comprehend the dynamics and complexity of health policy formulation</li> <li>c. Apply theoretical perspectives and health policy framework to analyze health policy issues</li> <li>d. Critique on local health care financing and service delivery systems</li> </ol>											

<b>Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The significance of health policy</li> <li>- Concepts and Determinants of health</li> <li>- Health inequality in a global context</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Policy objectives and principles to be upheld in formulating health policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equity, equality, cost-effectiveness, quality and choice</li> <li>- Trade-off of principles</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Theoretical foundations and health policy analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Economic, Political &amp; Sociological Perspectives</li> <li>- The health policy framework</li> <li>- The health policy process</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Health Care Systems and health care reform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An overview of major health care systems</li> <li>- Health care system in Hong Kong and reforms</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Health care financing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Major health financing options</li> <li>- Cost-containment strategies</li> <li>- Rationing in health care</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. Health Service Delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How health care services are organized and delivered</li> <li>- How to maintain the quality of health care services</li> <li>- Medical dominance and patients' rights</li> </ul> </li> <li>7. Ethical and legal dimensions of health policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ethical dimensions of health policy</li> <li>- Legal dimensions of health policy</li> </ul> </li> <li>8. Evaluation of health care policies and services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the importance of evaluation in health care</li> <li>- evaluation of effectiveness and equity</li> </ul> </li> </ol>																																						
<b>Teaching/Learning Methodology</b>	<p>A mixture of formal lectures and interactive seminar presentations will be adopted for this subject. Active learning is emphasized. Students are expected to participate actively in class and in seminar discussion. Students should plan and take responsibility for self-study, including the reading of books, articles, and reports relevant to the subject to prepare for the class and seminars.</p>																																						
<b>Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2" style="width: 30%;">Specific assessment methods/tasks</th> <th rowspan="2" style="width: 10%;">% weighting</th> <th colspan="6">Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="width: 5%;">a</th> <th style="width: 5%;">b</th> <th style="width: 5%;">c</th> <th style="width: 5%;">d</th> <th style="width: 5%;"></th> <th style="width: 5%;"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Seminar presentation &amp; participation</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50 %</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Term paper</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50 %</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>100 %</b></td> <td colspan="6"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)						a	b	c	d			1. Seminar presentation & participation	50 %	✓	✓	✓	✓			2. Term paper	50 %	✓	✓	✓	✓			<b>Total</b>	<b>100 %</b>						
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	<p>Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:</p> <p>In this subject, students have to conduct a health policy analysis in groups and present their findings in the form of seminar presentations. All seminar topics are related to recent developments of health policy and administration in Hong Kong. The assessment criteria include the appropriate application of theories and concepts, critical thinking and analytical skills, and the ability to understand the local policy and administrative contexts pertinent to the policy issues being studied.</p> <p>To encourage team work among students as well as independent learning by students, equal weighting of the final grade is assigned to both group seminar presentation and individual term paper.</p> <p>On a group basis, students are required to perform one seminar presentation; either on a health policy and/or issue on health care administration.</p> <p>Each student is required to write a term paper, on individual basis, of around 3,000 words on one of the seminar topics, excluding your presentation topic. In other words, the topic of term paper should not be the same as the one for presentation. Late submission will result in grade reduction (one sub-grade for paper submitted within the same week of the deadline).</p> <p>The assessment methods are appropriate in assessing the intended learning outcomes of this subject.</p>	
<b>Student Study Effort Expected</b>	Class contact:	
	▪ Lecture attendance	24 Hrs.
	▪ Seminars	15 Hrs.
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Preparation for seminar presentation	45 Hrs.
	▪ Preparation for tem paper	30 Hrs.
	Total student study effort	114 Hrs.
<b>Medium of Instruction</b>	English	
<b>Medium of Assessment</b>	English	
<b>Reading List and References</b>	<p><u>Essential</u></p> <p>Baggott, R. (2007). <i>Understanding health policy</i>. Bristol: Policy Press.</p> <p>Blank, R.H., &amp; Burau, V. (2010). <i>Comparative health policy</i>. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.</p> <p>Bodenheimer, T.S., &amp; Grumbach, K. (2009). <i>Understanding health policy</i> (5<sup>th</sup> Ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill Medical.</p>	

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- Supplementary
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- Buse, K., Mays, N., & Walt, G. (2005). *Making health policy*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.
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- Kelleher, D., Gabe, J., & Williams, G. (Eds.) (2006). *Challenging medicine*. (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). London; New York: Routledge.
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- Mahon, A., Walshe, K., & Chambers, N. (Eds.) (2009). *A reader in health policy and management*. Maidenhead: McGraw Hill/Open University Press.
- McDonnell, O., Lohan, M., Hyde, A., & Porter, S. (2009). *Social theory, health & health care*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.