

## Government and Public Administration

### Course List

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### Course Description

(Unless otherwise specified, all are 3-unit term courses consisting of 105 minutes of lecture and 45 minutes of tutorial per week.)

GPA 0210, 0220, 0410

The Study of Government and Public Administration I, II, III  
STOT

A course designed to cultivate clear thinking and to develop habits of application regarding the art and science of government and public administration through close and frequent interactions between the instructor and a small group of students. Content and format may be tailored to the needs of each group through teacher-student consultations.

GPA 1010

Political Debate

This course will study political debates both from theoretical as well as practical perspectives. It aims at developing students' confidence in presenting political arguments in public, and to defend the ideas in face of criticisms. Training will also be offered in respect to the skills in delivering sophisticated political messages in a coherent and convincing manner, and the professional way to restate a refined position. The course will also cover certain methodology of investigation and formal analysis of political activities and dialogues. (Not for students who have taken GEE 271R.)

GPA 1015

Politics and Mass Media

3 Lect.

This course is an introduction to substantive and theoretical debates concerning the role that the mass media play in public affairs and the political influence and control under which the mass media operate. Topics include: media influence on political attitudes, the political use of public opinion, political and commercial interests in the media, political implications of the development of the Internet, freedom of speech and freedom of the press, privacy and the right to know, and direct and indirect controls on and within the industry. Cases may be drawn from all over the world, including Hong Kong and mainland China. (Not for students who have taken GEE 267R.)

GPA 1020

Fundamentals of Government

2 Lect. 1 Tut. for GPA Majors; 3 Lect. for Non-Majors

Introduction to the nature of political inquiry, the basic concepts in political science and the main features of the major types of political systems. Some emphasis on the institutional aspects of government and administration, with concrete examples. (Not for students who have taken GEE 251R.)

GPA 1025

Government and Business

3 Lect.

This course is designed to provide an introductory overview about the ways in which government and business interact with one another in capitalist economies. It addresses the key concepts and perspectives in political economy and illuminates them through several cases in various policy areas. In particular, the course examines: 1) how government and business seek to influence one another via institutional and non-institutional means; 2) how government policies affect the competitive positions of individual firms and industries and how firms and industries compete to influence such policies; 3) the ways in which government policies affect economic growth and the ways in which governments seek to achieve a variety of non-economic objectives behind such economic policies; and 4) how to define local economic interest in an increasingly integrated global economy. (Not for students who have taken GEE 264R.)

GPA 1030

Fundamentals of Public Administration

2 Lect. 1 Tut. for GPA Majors; 3 Lect. for Non-Majors

Introduction to contemporary study and practice of public administration. Characteristics and roles of public bureaucracy in various types of administrative systems. Analysis of some issues such as codes of conduct for civil servants, budgetary politics and redress of administrative grievances. (Not for students who have taken GEE 252R.)

GPA 1035

Cyberpolitics

2 Lect. 1 Workshop

This course will examine cyberpolitics through method and content. First, the use of the Internet to gather data in general shall be examined. This will involve discussing useful search portals, especially for topics in politics, search engines, web-based meta-engines and meta-engine applications. Then, after an introduction to the subject, students will use this knowledge to look at a cyberpolitics topic of their choice. Cyberpolitics, broadly speaking, is the relationship between the Internet and politics. This includes topics such as e-governance; how the Internet empowers fringe and non-fringe political actors within institutionalized political activity (cyberdemocracy); how it empowers non-state actors, including terrorists, against the state; and how states use the Internet to respond to challenges to their authority or even survival. (Not for students who have taken GPA 0210 in 2001-02 or GEE 272R.)

GPA 1050

Government of Hong Kong

2 Lect. 1 Tut. for GPA Majors; 3 Lect. for Non-Majors

This is an introductory course in government and politics of Hong Kong. It examines the following major issues: political institutions and processes; the various theoretical approaches to understand Hong Kong politics; the Basic Law and the principle of “one country, two systems”; the performance of the SAR Government since the handover; political culture; political parties and elections; and public administration and public policy. Emphasis is placed on recent changes and development, and the prospects for democratization. (Not for students who have taken GEE 2885.)

GPA 1055

Parliamentary Practices and Procedures

3 Lect.

This course aims to introduce students to the law and practice of meetings. Topics include: the convention, constitution and conduct of meetings, the agenda, notices, quorum, motions and amendments, procedural motions, voting, adjournments and minutes. Types of meetings include: public meetings, company meetings, Legislative Council and District Council meetings. (Not for students who have taken GEE 263R.)

GPA 1070

Government and Politics of China

2 Lect. 1 Tut. for GPA Majors; 3 Lect. for Non-Majors

The study of the respective roles of the Government, the Party, and the bureaucracy under the Communist regime. The background and salient characteristics of the evolving political system. An evaluation of its capabilities. (Not for students who have taken GEE 254R.)

GPA 1090

Values in Public Policy

3 Lect.

A study of the relationship between issues of public policy and the values underlying them, the course revolves around policy debates of current interest in light of the values of justice, freedom, respect for life, humanitarianism, etc. (Not for students who have taken GEE 255R.)

GPA 1095

Issues of Political Philosophy

3 Lect.

This course will examine essential issues in political philosophy like justice, knowledge and power, freedom, democracy, equality, etc., through a critical assessment of the manner in which leading thinkers have treated these subjects over the years. (Not for students who have taken GEE 266R or GPA 3080.)

GPA 1110

Political Research Methodology

The course covers theories of research, structure and process of analysis, modes of observation and data analysis, and basic statistics.

GPA 2015

Selected Topics in Hong Kong Politics

This course provides an in-depth analysis of important topics in the government and politics of Hong Kong. Examples of these topics are political structure and process, election and party system, public policy and the administration, political development and democratization of Hong Kong. The focus of the course may vary according to the area of expertise of the instructor and the interests of the class. (Not for students who have taken GEE 2795.)

GPA 2025

Selected Topics in Chinese Politics

This course conducts in-depth studies on some important topics in Chinese political development since 1949. The topics may include issues such as political campaigns, politics of economic reform, political reform and state-society relations. The focus of the course may vary according to the area of expertise of the instructor and the interests of the class. (Not for students who have taken GEE 265R.)

GPA 2080

Political Analysis

Conceptual introduction to political science methodology. Survey of major approaches such as systems analysis, structural-functional analysis, decision-making analysis and communication analysis. Discussion of humanism versus scientism and foundations of empirical political inquiry.

GPA 2120

Democracies in the West

Comparative study of the structures and functions of political institutions in democratic systems of Western Europe and North America. Topics include the historical, cultural and socioeconomic conditions of viable political institutions, and contemporary challenges to democratic governments in the Western world. Prerequisite: GPA 1020 or 1060 or exemption granted.

GPA 2130

Introductory Comparative Politics

A beginner's course to introduce students to the comparative study of government and politics around the world. Not a juxtaposition of political systems, but an analytical discussion of the holistic system as well as partial aspects of systems across countries. Topics may include classification of political systems; conceptualization of political functions and processes; working and performance of political institutions; role of political culture; systemic, institutional or cultural effects of public policies; issues of development and decay; and the national-international linkage. Students will be familiarized with the major contending approaches to theory construction in comparative politics.

GPA 2140, 2141, 2142

Case Study in Comparative Government I, II, III

In-depth analysis of the structure and process of governing in a single country from a comparative perspective. Different theories to approach the case or country will be addressed. This is an open-ended course and the specific country to be studied will be announced each time the course is offered.

GPA 2150

Public Personnel Administration

Topics studied include: recruitment and selection methods; performance appraisal; the merit system; pay structure and the comparable worth debate; motivation and productivity; staff training and development; human resources planning, collective bargaining and labor relations; the constitutional status of public sector employees; equal opportunity legislation; and the latest trends in personnel management.

GPA 2160

Budgeting and Financial Control

The study of the budget cycle; fiscal policy; program design, planning and evaluation; performance measurement; forecasting techniques; accounting and auditing; legislative control of the budget; and the politics of the budgetary process.

GPA 2170

Public Organization and Management

This course focuses on the nature, types and characteristics of public organization as well as the tools and skills used in public management. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving, including such topics as organizational structures and designs, control and distortions, bureaucratic corruption, administrative leadership, motivation and work behaviour, decision-making and resource management, etc. Prerequisite: GPA 1030 or teacher's consent.

GPA 2345

International Politics

Examination of actors, dynamics, strategies and rules of the changing international political system, and patterns of interaction among the powers. (Not for students who have taken GEE 261R.)

GPA 2350

Chinese Foreign Policy

Analytic study of motivations, objectives, means, manifestations and consequences of Chinese foreign policy. Discussion of Chinese foreign policy-making apparatus, procedures and styles. China's role in the contemporary world and outstanding foreign policy problems facing China. (Not for students who have taken GEE 227H or 253R or IAS 4110.)

GPA 2355

Globalization and Politics

3 Lect.

The course explores the nature of globalization and investigate when it takes place and to what extent it affects and is affected by politics. Topics included will be: theories of globalization, political analysis or interpretation of globalization, regionalism and globalization, globalization and political development (e.g., democratization), the issue of a global order, and the impact of globalization on China and Hong Kong. (Not for students who have taken GEE 268R.)

GPA 2365

Reading Political Philosophy I: John Rawls

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to comprehensively study a political theory through intensive analysis of a leading political philosopher's work. It also aims to help students develop an aptitude for reading original texts and foster their interest in political philosophy. The proposed text for this term is John Rawls' s A Theory of Justice, the most important work of Anglo-American political philosophy in the 20th century.

Topics to be discussed will include the nature of social justice, the basic principles of social distribution and their justification, relation between freedom and equality, and the comparison between modern liberalism and other rival theories. (Not for students who have taken GEE 274R.)

GPA 2450

Introduction to Political Economy

This is an introductory course on modern political economy. Some fundamental issues of democratic governance, such as political and economic institutions and economic growth, political parties and macroeconomic policies, political business cycles, and the economic costs of democracy, will be addressed.

GPA 3030

Theories in Public Administration

The study of various theoretical approaches and issues in public administration, including rationalization and the rise of modern bureaucracy; the rise of the contemporary administrative state, various approaches to organization theory including the public choice school, institutional analysis, cultural theories, critical theory and post modernism; public administration and democracy; and the new managerialism.

GPA 3040

Democratization

This course focuses on the transition from authoritarian rule and the process of democratic consolidation or breakdown, drawing on experiences in several selected countries from Latin America, Europe and Asia. It will examine the concepts, theories and empirical findings pertaining to the study of democratization and their applicability to the study of the same issue in Chinese societies.

GPA 3050

Inter-governmental Relations

This course deals with hierarchical and non-hierarchical relations within a web of territorial structures that affect political integration in general or political/policy performance in particular. Fundamental concepts and approaches will be examined, such as federalism, center-periphery approach, principal-agent model, centralization versus decentralization, state theories, the inter-governmental relations perspective and neo-institutionism.

GPA 3070

Political Philosophy

This course covers, in chronological order, major political thinkers and ideas from Plato to 20th-century Liberalism. Although the topics are covered in chronological order, this is not a history of political thought course. The course will force students to confront the issues raised by these thinkers and ideas.

GPA 3075

Selected Topics in Political Theory

In-depth studies and evaluation of basic political theories. Topics include rational choice theory, organization theory and institution theory. The approach is philosophical and analytical, with emphasis on contemporary political literature.

GPA 3190

Politics of Development

Examination of theories of political and administrative development. In-depth analysis of conditions and stages of development, with emphasis on the role of politics and administration.

GPA 3230

Selected Topics in Asian Politics

Comparative analysis of the political structures and processes in the Southeast Asian states with special attention to the relevant historical, geographical and social settings. Evaluation of public policies and their effects on political stability and development.

GPA 3250

Public Policy and Administration in Hong Kong

The study of the public policy-making process and the analysis of substantive policy issues in Hong Kong. The study of the institutions and processes of public administration in Hong Kong, including the civil service system, public personnel management, financial management, the administrative culture, the system of administrative accountability, the political environment and recent trends in public sector reform.

GPA 3260

Public Policy and Administration in China

The study of the policy-making process and the analysis of substantive policy issues in China. The study of the public administrative institutions and processes in China. These include the reform of the cadre system and its relationship with other institutional changes, the anti-corruption policy, social welfare policy, budgeting, and the relationship between the central and the local government. A comparative approach will also be adopted to study all these issues.

GPA 3270

Public Policy Studies

This course will focus on the characteristics, themes, hypotheses and theories in the study of public policy. The causal relationship between policy and variables of institutions, groups, bureaucrats, experts, public ideas and environmental forces, among others, will be examined within the context of policy debate and adoption. Theories and models of policy formulation and implementation will also be tackled. Public policy cases from Hong Kong, China and other relevant countries will be adopted to shed light on the analytical tools and conceptual ideas offered in the course.

GPA 3280

Politics of Transition

This course will focus on the politics of transition in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and political issues related to the political and economic reform in other countries. Topics to be discussed will include re-building of state structure, installation of democratic institutions, erection of market system, re-mapping of states and nations, and re-interpretation of political culture. Various theoretical debates will be introduced, such as strong state versus weak state, shock therapy versus gradualism, path-dependency versus path-shaping, and democracy versus soft authoritarianism.

GPA 3370

Taiwan Studies

The development and current conditions of the democratic political system in Taiwan, including the Constitution of the ROC, government apparatus, party politics, the administrative and policy-making systems, foreign relations and problems relating to the unification/independence debate. Emphasis on the recent experience in democratization and its significance for mainland China and the territories of Hong Kong and Macau.

GPA 3445

Senior Thesis Research I

1st term

Research on an approved topic under individualized and close supervision of a faculty member, culminating in a thesis. Consent of instructor required.

GPA 3456

Senior Thesis Research II

2nd term

Continued research on the topic initiated under GPA 3445 under individualized and close supervision of a faculty member, culminating in an advanced thesis. Prerequisite: GPA 3445.

GPA 5050

Principles and Methods of Research

The course serves to introduce students to the fundamental principles of scientific inquiry, major research methods and the basic skills of quantitative research. Topics covered include: the conceptual foundation of research in social science, design and structure of research, modes of observations and quantitative analysis of data. This course puts a stronger emphasis on the methods and techniques that are commonly used in the study of law and public affairs. Students taking this course should first obtain teacher's consent.

GPA 5060

Quantitative Research

The course covers sampling, inferential statistics and selected quantitative methods such as the survey method. Prerequisite: GPA 1110. Students taking this course should first obtain teacher's consent.

GPA 5130

Comparative Politics

This course will address one or several linked problems and topics, such as elections, parties and the legislature; growth, equality participation or instability; nationalism, state-building and nation-building; labour politics, democratization and the welfare state; trade policy/politics, transnational economic power and state power; technology, bureaucracy and political accountability; constitutionalism, the legislature and the court; mass media, public opinion and democracy; and so on. Students taking this course should first obtain teacher's consent.

GPA 5235

Sino-American Relations

This course will review the historical development of Sino-American relations in the past several decades (for example, the origins of their confrontation in the 1950s, rapprochement in the 1970s, structural changes as the Cold War ended in the 1990s), examine the prominent issues occupying the current agenda (such as the Taiwan issue, human rights disputes, trade relations, arms control and nuclear nonproliferation, and many others), and explore into the factors that shape the change and continuity of the relationship. It combines conceptual inquiries with empirical investigation and aims to train the analytical ability of students toward understanding Sino-American relations. Students taking this course should first obtain teacher's consent.

GPA 5245

Cross-strait Relations

This course focuses on the relations between the mainland China and Taiwan. Topics discussed include national integration (as the trend toward Taiwan independence is growing while Beijing insists on reunification), nationalism and national identity, impacts of democratization (as Taiwan's democratization shapes the new Taiwanese identity while there is a resurgence of Chinese nationalism), economic interdependence (as cross-strait economic connections become critical to the economic development of both sides), the role of third-party intervention (as the United States plays a critical part in the relationship), arms race and deterrence, and East Asian regional security and prosperity (as the potential of military conflict between the two sides persists). Students taking this course should first obtain teacher's consent.

GPA 5260

Selected Issues in Hong Kong Studies

In-depth analyses of selected issues or aspects of the Hong Kong society, mainly from political and administrative perspectives, e.g., government in business, district administration, citizens' participation, new town management. Students taking this course should first obtain teacher's consent.

GPA 5280

Chinese Politics

This is an advanced course on Chinese politics and is designed to provide students with an opportunity to explore key issues concerning the politics of contemporary China. It surveys and evaluates recent literature and compares the case of China with other countries in transition. Students taking this course should first obtain teacher's consent.

GPA 5290

Contemporary Political Science

3 Lect.

The objective of this course is to acquaint students with the state of the art in political science. Its recent developments in terms of scope methodology, theory and approach will be analysed. Particular attention will be given to areas where debates and controversies have contributed to the development of knowledge in the field. The ethos, concerns and research concentration of the discipline will also be discussed. Students taking this course should first obtain teacher's consent.

GPA 5330

Contemporary Chinese Political Thought

Political thought in China with emphasis on the period from late Ch'ing to the present, when China advanced from reaction and reflection to interaction and re-assertion in relation to the approach and expansion of Western influence. Introduction and analysis of thinkers and literature representing various stages of contemporary Chinese intellectual response and political development. (Not for students who have taken GEE 2210.) Students taking this course should first obtain teacher's consent.

GPA 5350

Public Policy in China

This course is concerned with "who gets what" in Chinese politics. It begins with an introduction to analytical frameworks for the study of public policy. Students will then be informed about what policies the Chinese government pursues in a variety of key domestic areas, and why, and with what consequences. Depending on the expertise of the teacher and guest speakers,

the policy areas studied may include economic reform, employment, taxation, social welfare, housing, education, civil rights, public order, environmental protection and so on. Students taking this course should first obtain teacher's consent.

#### GPA 5360

##### China's Political Economy in the Reform Era

This course introduces students to various approaches for understanding the political economy of China's reform. Specific issues that will be addressed include: the Maoist setting as constraints to reform; gradualism as the core characteristics of the post-Mao reform; the interplay between political and economic factors in the reform; assessment of the result of the reform; and political explanation of the cause and result of the reform. Students taking this course should first obtain teacher's consent.

## Study Scheme

### 1. Major Programme

Students are required to complete a minimum of 66 units of courses as follows:

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|------|--|----------|
| (i)  | Required Courses:<br><i>In the First Year of Attendance</i><br>GPA 1020A, 1030A, 1095, 1110 and any one session of LAW 1010<br><i>In the Second or Third Year of Attendance</i><br>GPA 3070. | 18 units |
| (ii) | 48 units of Elective Courses in GPA or LAW<br>Students are required to take at least FOUR 3000 level GPA or LAW courses (including GPA 3070) during their three years of study.              | 48 units |

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Total: 66 units

- Notes: 1. Units (including LAW 1010) which count towards the fulfilment of the Government and Public Administration Major Programme requirements shall not count towards the fulfilment of the requirements of the Minor Programme in Law, and vice versa.
2. For Major students minoring in Law, the units earned by taking LAW 1010 shall only be counted towards the fulfilment of the requirements of the Major Programme.
3. Major students minoring in Law are required to declare which Law courses will be counted towards the fulfilment of the requirements of the Minor Programme in Law at their final term of attendance.
4. Students are allowed to take a maximum of two STOT courses within their years of attendance. These two courses may include only one of the following : GPA 0210 or 0220.
5. Students are advised not to take courses coded 3000 or above in their first year of attendance.

#### *Requirements for students given permission to take two minor programmes*

Students are required to complete a minimum of 60 units including required courses listed in (i) above, and 42 units of elective courses listed in (ii).

2. *Minor Programme*

Students are required to complete a minimum of 18 units of GPA (not LAW) courses, including GPA 1020 and 1030. Students are advised not to take courses coded 3000 or above in their first year of attendance. (Please see item 3 below.)

3. *LAW1010 Law and Society*

- (i) For Government and Public Administration Majors:  
Students are required to take LAW 1010. If they have taken SOC 2108/GEE 260R, the units so earned will not be counted towards any requirements for graduation unless the course is required by students' Minor programmes.
- (ii) For students transferred from other programmes to the Government and Public Administration Major programme:
  - (a) Students who have taken SOC 2108/GEE 260R before transferring into the GPA Major programme must take LAW 1010 in order to fulfil the Major programme requirements. The units of LAW 1010 will be counted towards the Major programme requirements while the units of SOC 2108/GEE 260R will not be counted towards any requirements for graduation unless the course is required by students' Minor programmes.
  - (b) For students who have taken both LAW 1010 and SOC 2108/GEE 260R before transferring into the Department, the units of LAW 1010 will be counted towards the Major programme requirements while the units of SOC 2108/GEE 260R will not be counted towards the requirements for graduation unless the course is required by students' Major/Minor programmes.