PPOL 6100J Comparative Social Welfare Policy

SYLLABUS

Time and Venue: Tuesday 1:30PM-4:20PM @ Room 1409 (Lift 25-26)

Instructor: Associate Professor HE Jingwei Alex, Division of Public Policy, HKUST
E-mail: ajwhe@ust.hk; Telephone: 3469-2282
Office hour: Wednesday 2:30PM-4:30PM @Room4616A

Teaching Assistant: Yiwei GAO, PhD Student, E-mail: ygaocl@connect.ust.hk

Course Description
This elective course teaches social policy concepts and practices in a comparative perspective. It critically examines major social policy challenges confronting societies in Asia. A key feature of this course is that social welfare issues are addressed through case examples and accompanied by concrete analyses based on policy practices of societies in the region. Adopting a comparative approach in analysing social policy design and implementation, this course will enable students to understand the most recent developments related to poverty alleviation, health care, labour protection, social security, and public housing policies in Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore. Students will engage in comparing and contrasting major social welfare issues with the purpose of understanding their underlying dynamics and devising appropriate responses.

Course Objectives
Students who successfully undertake this course will:
• Understand the concepts and approaches of social policy studies.
• Appreciate the value of social welfare policies to human dignity and development.
• Be equipped with useful analytical skills in examining poverty alleviation, health, labour protection, old-age protection, and public housing policies.
• Compare and contrast the policy strategies of governments in Asia in promoting social development and make assessment.

Suggested Readings


Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>October 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group project presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>November 21 and 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer evaluation (within group)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>November 20 and 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer evaluation (across group)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>On presentation days</td>
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Class #1 Introduction: Understanding Social Policy
September 5

Readings:

Class #2 and Class #3 Poverty and Poverty Alleviation (I) and (II)
September 8 (Friday, 2PM-4:20PM @ Room 1103) and September 19

Readings:

Class #4, Class #5, and Class #6 Health Policy (I), (II) and (III)
September 26, October 3, and October 10
A special moving screening session @ September 26

Readings:
- Yin, J.D.C., and He, J.A. (2018). Health insurance reforms in Singapore and Hong Kong: How the two ageing Asian Tigers respond to health financing challenges? Health Policy, 122(7), 693-697.

Class #7 and Class #8 Retirement Protection and Elderly Care (I) and (II)
October 17 and October 24
Readings:

Class Activity (October 30): Join “Integrating Health and Social Care Services for the Elderly in Asia: A Scholar-Practitioner-Policymaker Dialogue” at Clear Water Bay Campus

Class #9 Public Housing Policy (I)
October 31

Readings:

Class #10 Public Housing Policy (II)
November 7

Guest Lecture
Speakers:
- Professor Anthony B.L. Cheung, GBS, JP, Secretary for Transport and Housing, Hong Kong SAR Government (2012-2017).
- Ms Vivien F.Y. Tang, Singapore citizen, PhD Candidate, Department of Asian and Policy Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong

Class #11 Labour Protection
November 14

Readings:
Class #12 and Class #13 Group Presentations (I) and (II)
November 21 and 28