

**United College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong**  
**General Education Course**  
**GEUC 2102A PUBLIC AFFAIRS: PARTICIPATION AND REFLECTION**  
**2nd Term, 2022/23**

Course Lecturer: Professor Annie TAM  
Data Science and Policy Studies Programme (DSPS)  
Faculty of Social Science

Office: c/o Data Science and Policy Studies Programme

Tel. No. : 9138 8050

Class Time and Venue: Monday evenings (7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.); 30 Jan; 6 Feb; 17 Apr 2023  
Room 405, Yasumoto International Academic Park (YIA)  
Plus a compulsory experiential learning activity outside classroom between mid-February and March 2023

**Course Overview:**

This course aims to groom each of the students to become a responsible policy leader and an effective change agent in society through understanding the dynamics of making and changing public policy and the power and potential of innovation and technology related to data science. This course would help students develop a full set of capacities including (1) awareness towards important public issues and social affairs; (2) ability to understand the policy connection, impact, and implications of those issues and affairs; (3) acumen in forming opinions and suggestions based on well-articulated arguments and empirical evidence; and (4) faculty to understand how policy and social changes can be made, particularly through innovation and new technology, for making a positive difference in society.

As society has been becoming more sophisticated, it is increasingly challenging for government (through public policy making) and non-governmental actors (through influencing public policy making) to address social needs and solve social problems. In recent years, innovation and new technology related to data science such as Artificial Intelligence and Big Data have enhanced productivity and given rise to many challenges and dilemmas in different societies, including Hong Kong and those in the Mainland and the East Asia Region. This course therefore focuses on two major dimensions: (1) the first dimension concerns the role of government in public affairs and its interaction with society; and (2) the second dimension examines how innovation and technology related to data science have been or will be transforming the traditional relationship between policy and society, thus opening up new opportunities for change and progress.

This course emphasizes the integration between theories and practices. Apart from classroom teaching and interactive discussion, there will be group experiential learning activities (interviews / visits / field trips / service learning, etc.) Students may experience their own “seeing is believing” through case studies, group projects, observation and self-reflection.

*(Remark: This Course is not for students majoring in Government and Public Administration)*

## Grade Descriptors:

<b>P</b>	All learning outcomes/assessment criteria have been met. The work demonstrates most or all the following characteristics in relation to those expected at the given level of study within the discipline: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Adequate to good understanding and exploration</li><li>2. No significant inaccuracies, misunderstandings or errors</li><li>3. The specifications for the assessment task, including word limit/time limit where appropriate, have been adhered to</li><li>4. The outside classroom activities are well organized, coherent and the standard presentation, including referencing where appropriate, is up to standard</li><li>5. Appropriate contextualization, including relevant theory / literature / artefacts /performance</li><li>6. Evidence of quality analysis, synthesis, reflection and critical appraisal</li></ol>
<b>F</b>	One or more than one key learning outcome/assessment criterion has/have not been met. The work fails to meet the requirements in relation to those expected at the given level of study within the discipline, exemplified by any of the followings: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Poor understanding and exploration of ideas</li><li>2. Some significant inaccuracies, misunderstandings or errors</li><li>3. Not participating required classroom activities, including group presentations</li><li>4. Not participating required outside classroom activities, including service projects or visit to organizations</li><li>5. No evidence of analysis, synthesis, reflection and critical appraisal</li><li>6. Insufficient attention paid to some of the assessment criteria and some significant aberrations from the specifications for the assessment task</li></ol>

## Learning Objectives and Outcomes:

This course will nurture students to become responsible policy leaders and effective change agents, with focus on developing and enhancing their capacities and skills as follows:

- 1.) Students will learn how to master the basic concepts in public policy and apply them to analyse real-world problems.
- 2.) Students will familiarize themselves with a range of major problems and issues besetting both citizens in Hong Kong and citizens in the global community. Students will learn the skills to articulate and solve the problems from the perspective of policy analysts or policy leaders.
- 3.) Students will learn how technology and innovation related to data science interplay with policies and develop innovative solutions to make a positive difference in society.
- 4.) Students will develop their skills in presenting and communicating complicated ideas and analytical results effectively in both verbal and written formats, through a learning journey of lectures, group experiential learning activities and a round of presentation and discussion exercises.

## Course Schedule and Arrangements:

### Week One. Policy and Society: A Conceptual Framework

[30 January 2023]

This lecture will introduce the concepts and theories of the public policy making, and analyze the interaction between policy makers and major stakeholders in shaping the outcomes and impacts. Theories of policy making and policy advocacy will be discussed, with a view to nurturing within students a perspective of how change and progress can be made possible. Case studies will be used to illustrate the application of theories into practices.

## **Week Two. Making Change through Innovation and Technology: Theory and Practice**

[6 February 2023]

This lecture will provide a general overview of how change in policy and society is possible as the two interact and co-evolve. New opportunities of social and policy change made possible by innovation and technology will also be discussed. Both theories and practices, illustrated by case studies, will be covered. Guest speakers may be invited for sharing their views with students.

### **Group Experiential Learning Activity**

[Mid-February to March 2023]

Students will be free to form groups (of varying sizes) to conduct projects to experience team building dynamics. Each group is required to conduct an experiential learning activity having regard to a policy issue. Some examples are provided in (A) below.

#### **(A) Possible group experiential learning activities**

1. Visit a Government Organisation, e.g. Planning Department Exhibition Centre at City Hall
2. Visit a High-Technology and Innovation Organization / Company, e.g. Science Park, Cyberport, or Logistics and Supply Chain Multi-Tech R&D Centre
3. Visit a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), e.g. New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association; Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, Dragon Foundation, or Youth Outreach.
4. Visit a project of Hong Kong Housing Society (the second largest public housing provider in Hong Kong), e.g. Joyous Court at Tanner Hill, a redeveloped estate, or a Modular Integrated Construction (MIC) project
5. Visit a community project of Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS), e.g. IT project for welfare NGOs, or transitional housing
6. Visit a quasi-autonomous NGO (Quango), e.g. Employees Retraining Board, or Vocational Training Council
7. Visit a social enterprise, e.g. cafe 330 at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, farmfresh 330 at Tai Wai, or New Life Kitchen in Kwai Chung
8. Field trip to a community project e.g. New Life Farm
9. Service Learning e.g. direct sale at social enterprise outlet, preparing funding proposal for NGO, assisting NGO in organizing / conducting an activity, taking part in food sharing, or conducting data collection for a project, etc.
10. Interview government officials, members of statutory boards and advisory committees, chief executive officers of NGOs or enterprises, professionals, practitioners, or service users (such interviews can be done within or outside the context of 1-9 above)
11. Others: students may conduct other experiential learning activities, with prior consent of the Lecturer.

\*The Lecturer may arrange for a broadcaster to share his interview experience with students.

#### **(B) Outline**

Before conducting the experiential learning activity, each group should prepare an outline on what the group proposes to do and submit it to the Lecturer who will help students finalize it for use.

## **Week Three. Group presentation and discussion**

[17 April 2023]

Each group of students will present the findings of its experiential learning activity in class, which should meet the following requirements: (1) Each group should identify a policy issue for the project; (2) Students must demonstrate their ability to articulate the intricacies of the policy issue; (3) Students should be able to apply what they have learnt from the course; and (4) Students should present their own opinions and suggestions for achieving change and desirable outcomes. These opinions and suggestions should be supported by facts and figures. It is important to note that the content of opinions by itself would not affect the grading.

## **At the end of the Course: Self-reflection report**

[27 April 2023]

At the end of the course, each student will submit a 500-word (in English) self-reflection report. In their reports, students should reflect on what they have learnt from the course, inside and outside the classroom. Students should also reflect on the role they may play in contributing to the advancement of social good, and on how the experience of this course may foster their intellectual and personal growth. The performance of students will not be judged on their opinions.

### **Language:**

Cantonese (with English materials)

### **Assessment:**

#### **Class attendance and discussion:**

Students will be required to attend lectures, to conduct group experiential activities and present findings in class, and to submit a self-reflection report. Students are also expected to actively participate in classroom discussion and in team work with fellow students.

### **Feedback for Evaluation:**

1. Interaction and communication with instructor and fellow students;
2. Participation in classes and experiential learning activities;
3. Group presentation and sharing;
4. Self-reflection report; and
5. Course and teaching evaluation form.

### **Suggested Readings**

#### Required Readings:

To be assigned

#### Optional Readings:

To be assigned

### **Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.