

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 科目簡介**

### **COURSES FOR 4-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES**

#### **SSC2113 Linear Algebra (3 credits)**

This course focuses on basic Linear Algebra used in econometrics and in social research. It will cover some basic techniques of matrix arithmetic and algebra, and in particular matrix multiplication and solution of n linear equations.

#### **SSC2114 Calculus (3 credits)**

The course covers both differential calculus and integral calculus. It will cover basic derivatives and integration techniques with one variable as well that with more than one variable functions. Applications to economics, social sciences, managerial sciences, etc. will be covered.

#### **SSC3002 Housing and Society (3 credits)**

(recoded to SOC3335 from 2020-21)

#### **SSC3003 Digital Society (3 credits)**

(recoded to SOC3336 from 2020-21)

#### **SSC3004 Smart Cities Seminar (3 credits)**

(recoded to SOC3337 from 2020-21)

#### **SSC3101 Asia Pacific and the World (3 credits) (deleted from 2021-22)**

This course introduces students to the trade, economic, political and security relations among the countries of the Asian Pacific region. The course examines key approaches to international aspects of economic and political interaction, as well as trade and security cooperation and integration since 1945. The course is divided into two parts: the first (I-V) covering trade and other economic dimensions, and the second (VI-X) covering political and security relations.

#### **SSC3102 Seminar in Social and Public Policy Issues (3 credits)**

This seminar-based course is designed for students opting for the Social and Public Policy Studies stream. A select number of topics in social and public policy will be introduced and discussed in class (e.g. employment, social welfare, education, environmental, population and health policies). Faculty members and guest speakers will share with students their current research interests and knowledge in the field. Through seminar discussions and presentations, students will be familiarised with how policy analysis is done by researchers, academics and practising professionals, and how these selected issues impact and relate to society and individuals. Weekly seminars will provide an opportunity for students to raise questions and to participate in discussions, thereby deepening their understanding of issues involved in social and public policy. Students will get involved in research activities organised by the instructor in charge of the course to engage with leading professors and practitioners for reflecting upon major policy making and implementation issues.

#### **SSC3202 Contemporary China: Economics, Politics and Society (3 credits)**

(deleted from 2021-22)

This course provides an introduction to Chinese economy, politics, and society. The focus is on economic, political and social institutions, social and political movements and economic and social developments, and selected aspects of external relations such as China's role in the World Trade Organization (WTO). The course will cover developments since 1949. Basic theories, interpretations and data related to the development of

contemporary China will be discussed.

**SSC3203 Contemporary Asia Pacific** (from 2020-21) /  
**Asia Pacific Today** (in 2019-20 or before) **(3 credits)**  
(recoded to POL3107 from 2020-21)

**SSC3204 Public Expenditure and Cost Benefit Analysis (3 credits)** (deleted from 2021-22)

(Prerequisite(s): (a) ECO2101 Introduction to Economics, or (b) Level 3 in HKDSE Economics, or (c) BUS2105 Microeconomics for Business)

This course provides students with an understanding of (a) theoretical foundations of public expenditure and cost benefit analysis; (b) the conceptualisation and measurement of project/policy/programme costs and benefits; (c) the techniques of conducting cost benefit analysis, and (d) public policy analysis in Hong Kong.

**SSC3212 Regional Development in Greater China** (from 2019-20)/  
**Regional Development in China** (in 2018-19 or before) **(3 credits)**

(Prerequisite(s): (a) ECO2101 Introduction to Economics, or (b) Level 3 in HKDSE Economics, or (c) BUS2105 Microeconomics for Business)

This course is designed for students to develop a conceptual framework for examining the spatial distribution of economic activity and to apply the tools learned in the course to the analyses of regional development in Greater China (encompassing mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau). We will begin with the introduction to basic theories of location of activities and regional development. Following the study of these theories, we will investigate changing patterns and underlying factors of regional inequality and regional policy in China since the founding of the PRC. Particular attention will be paid to the spatial development programmes carried out in China since 1999, such as the Western development strategy, the Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road.

**SSC3213 Political Psychology and Behaviour (3 credits)**

Political psychology is, at the most general level, an application of what is known about human psychology to the study of politics. Research on political psychology has mainly been a two-way traffic: it draws on a diverse set of psychological theories about personality, developmental psychology, cognitive psychology, and inter-group interaction; and it addresses political phenomena such as leadership, mass political behaviour, civic education, and international conflict. This course draws on research of the field of psychology to understand political processes and behaviour.

**SSC3215 Taiwan: Politics and Society** (from 2020-21)/  
**Taiwan: Society and Politics** (in 2019-20 or before) **(3 credits)**  
(recoded to POL3215 from 2020-21)

**SSC3217 Statistics for Social Science (3 credits)** (recoded to SOC3217 from 2017-18)

**SSC3218 Environment and Society in Hong Kong (3 credits)**

This course examines relationships between environment and society. In particular, it looks at environmental issues in Hong Kong and the societal and official attitudes and behaviours toward those issues, as well as some of the ways in which environmentally sustainable development might be implemented more effectively through policy in Hong Kong.

**SSC3312 Health Policy (3 credits)**

(Prerequisite(s): (a) ECO2101 Introduction to Economics, or (b) Level 3 or above in HKDSE Economics, or (c) BUS2105 Microeconomics for Business)

This course provides analysis of health policy issues with particular reference to Hong Kong and China, but will also draw from the health reform debate overseas to shed light on the health policy problem in general. Students will use the tools of economic analysis in learning how health is the joint output of private and public sector input and lifestyle, and how different approaches in financing and designing health care delivery will affect efficiency, distribution, and the quality of health care.

**SSC3313      Housing, Transportation, and Regional Development (3 credits)**  
(recoded and retitled to ECO3313 Urban Economics from 2018-19)

**SSC3315      Labour Market and Education Policy (3 credits)**

(Prerequisite(s): (a) ECO2101 Introduction to Economics, or (b) Level 3 in HKDSE Economics, or (c) BUS2105 Microeconomics for Business)

(Restriction(s): Students are not allowed to take both this course and ECO3103 Labour Economics from 2015-16.)

This course provides students with an introduction to the economics of education. It analyses the roles of government policies in the areas of education, with reference to the current policy debate in Hong Kong on these matters.

Depending on the availability of service agency, Service-Learning will be implemented in the course. When implemented, students can choose if they would like to undertake the Service-learning component of the course.

**SSC3317      Economics of Law and Public Policy (from 2014-15)/ Law, Behaviour, and Public Policy (in 2012-13 and 2013-14) (3 credits)** (deleted from 2021-22)

(Prerequisite(s): (a) ECO2101 Introduction to Economics, or (b) Level 3 or above in HKDSE Economics, or (c) BUS2105 Microeconomics for Business)

(Restriction(s): Students are not allowed to take both this course and ECO4101 Economics of Law from 2015-16.)

This course introduces students to the importance of law in the running of human society: politically, socially, as well as economically. Law and the legal system play an important part in the running of the democratic process, define the nature of relations between individuals and socio-economic groups. They also determine, the willingness of investors to invest in projects that produce returns over the long haul, and are crucial to specialisation and the division of labour. The course will also cover aspects of the law which are important to the maintenance of public order and examine the social and economic costs they involve.

**SSC3319      Junior Research Project (3 credits)**

(Prerequisite(s): At least one research methods course offered in the BSocSc or the BSocSc in Global Economics and Banking programme)

The ability to conduct independent research is an important learning outcome for any social science graduate. This course provides a platform for students to employ and develop their research skills. Students will receive individual supervision from instructors and work towards the production of a project which incorporates key elements of a social science research project. These elements include (but are not limited to) a literature review, development of a theoretical framework, and the formulation of appropriate research questions and methods of data analysis etc. This project could be further developed to form part of students' (optional) Senior Thesis. Students who choose not to do a Senior Thesis may submit a complete research project (with data and policy analysis, etc.) but is not a requirement for the overall assessment of the project.

**SSC3320      Population Dynamics and Policy (3 credits)**  
(recoded to SOC3320 from 2020-21)

**SSC3327 Social Welfare and Social Problems in Hong Kong (3 credits)**  
(recoded to SOC3327 from 2020-21)

**SSC4101 Environmental Issues and Policy (3 credits)** (deleted from 2021-22)  
(Prerequisite(s): (a) ECO2101 Introduction to Economics, or (b) Level 3 or above in HKDSE Economics, or (c) BUS2105 Microeconomics for Business)  
(Restriction(s): Students are not allowed to take both this course and ECO3314 Environmental Economics from 2015-16.)

This course explores environmental issues and their connections between environmental sciences, policy, and management. The course begins by reviewing scientific, ethical, and economic approaches to environmental problems. We will then apply these perspectives to prominent environmental issues, including climate change, and discuss alternative environmental management approaches, such as tradable pollution rights and administrative rules and regulations.

**SSC4207 International Political Economy (3 credits)**

(Prerequisite(s): In Term 1, 2019-20 or before, (a) ECO2101 Introduction to Economics, or (b) Level 3 in HKDSE Economics, or (c) BUS2105 Microeconomics for Business and ECO3202 Intermediate Macroeconomics)

The International Political Economy (IPE) course offers a multidisciplinary approach to the study of modern society. International Political Economy encourages the integrated analysis of economic problems and issues, using tools and methods of political science, economics, and sociology as informed by an understanding of history and tempered by appreciation of the differences in economic and political systems in the world. This course introduces three standard perspectives in International Political Economy and thus offers such a broad and critical vision to look at the world and to understand current issues.

**SSC4219 Methods and Practice of Social Survey (3 credits)**  
(recoded to SOC4219 from 2020-21)

**SSC4301 Policy-making, Collective Action and Public Choice (3 credits)**

(Prerequisite(s): GOV2101 Introduction to Political Science (coded in POL2101 in 2021-22 or before))

This course discusses public choice theory of policy-making and its limitations. It examines the logic and foundation of actions of those individuals and groups involved in the policy-making process: voting and party competition, interest groups and collective action, bureaucracy and policy-making, coalition and government formation.

**SSC4304 Chinese Politics in the Reform Era (3 credits)** (deleted from 2021-22)  
From Term 2, 2017-18

With a number of courses in our programme studying economic reform in China, this course focuses on the social and political aspects of the reform and puts special emphasis on the effect of the reform measures and open-door policies in the post-Mao Zedong period. Changes in both the state and society in the last four decades will be studied. Reform measures taken by the state and reactions from the society are the two major lines of investigation.

The nature of this course is investigation into “selected current issues”; thus topic(s) and readings will be updated from time to time.

Students are expected to have some general understanding on Chinese politics/economics/society before taking this course, e.g., have taken SSC3202, GOV3201 (coded as POL3201 in 2021-22 or before) or other similar courses. Otherwise, extra efforts should be taken to do preliminary readings [e.g., read any introductory textbook on

Chinese politics, e.g., Guo (2013), Larus (2012), Wang (2002)].

In Term 1, 2017-18 or before

With several courses in the BSocSc programme studying the economic reform in China, this course focuses on the political aspects of the reform and puts special emphasis on the effect of the reform measures and open-door policies initiated by Deng Xiaoping. Changes in both the state and society in the last two decades will be studied. Reform measures taken by the state and reactions from the society are the two major lines of investigation.

**SSC4307 Regional Cooperation and Integration** (from 2020-21)/  
**APEC and Regional Co-operation** (in 2019-20 or before) (3 credits)  
(recoded to POL4006 from 2020-21)

**SSC4316 Politics and Government of Japan** (from 2020-21)/  
**Social Change and Politics in Japan** (in 2019-20 or before) (3 credits)  
(recoded to POL4007 from 2020-21)

**SSC4319 Senior Thesis (3 credits)**

(Prerequisite(s): SSC3319 Junior Research Project)

The senior thesis allows students to build upon/modify the research topic and design that they have worked in the Junior Research Project course. They will be given the opportunity to apply theories, research tools and techniques to implement the research and write up an independent thesis on their chosen topic.

**SSC4321 FDI and Multinationals in China (3 credits)**

(Prerequisite(s): (a) ECO2101 Introduction to Economics, or (b) Level 3 in HKDSE Economics, or (c) BUS2105 Microeconomics for Business)

An important part of the economic reform process in China has been the promotion of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow. After more than three decades of economic reform, China has become one of the world's most important destinations for FDI. In this course, we will begin with the introduction to basic theories of FDI. Then we will trace the development of China's economic policy regarding FDI and the resulting changes in FDI inflow. We will also discuss the impact of FDI and multinationals on China's economic development.

**SSC4327 One Country, Two Systems: Central-Hong Kong SAR Relationships (3 credits)** (deleted from 2021-22)

The course intends to equip students with the theoretical concepts or framework that analyse the principle of "one country, two systems". The course will be divided into two parts: the first part deals with theories that look at the central-local relationships in general and the second part addresses the concrete issues that emerged in the post-handover political scene in Hong Kong in the context of the PRC Central government and Hong Kong SAR relationships.

**SSC4328 Ageing, Modernisation and Adaptation (3 credits)**

(recoded to SOC4328 from 2020-21)

**SSC4333 Health, Illness and Behaviour (3 credits)** (deleted from Term 2, 2017-18)

(Restriction(s): Students are not allowed to take both this course and SOC3339 Global Health)

This course provides a social psychological and medical sociology perspective to health and illness and human behaviour in reaction to health and illness. The course introduces Chinese and Western conceptualisations of health and illness; social epidemiology – how people and the human and physical environments are associated with health and disease and key current issues and debates in health and medical fields including the

doctor-patient relationship, medicalisation of illnesses, professionalisation of the medical and para-medical professions, patient behaviour and rights and principles of diagnostic criteria.

**SSC4339**      **Global Health (3 credits)** (recoded from SOC4339 from 2015-16)  
(recoded to SOC4329 from 2020-21)