

Asia Pacific Comparative Development and Policy Symposium

Course Title	:	Asia Pacific Comparative Development and Policy Symposium
Course Code	:	SOC 604
Recommended Study Year	:	Taught Master Year 1
No. of Credits/Term	:	3
Mode of Tuition	:	Seminar
Class Contact Hours	:	Intensive Teaching Block
Category in Major Prog.	:	Required
Discipline	:	Social Science
Prerequisite(s)	:	N/A
Co-requisite(s)	:	N/A
Exclusion(s)	:	N/A
Exemption Requirement(s)	:	N/A

Brief Course Description

In collaboration with the *International Academic Forum (IAFOR)*, and the *Asia Pacific Higher Education Research Partnership (APHERP)*, Lingnan University will host an international Conference (symposium) on higher education research themed as ‘Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Value’. The Symposium will offer an international platform for higher education researchers, senior university administrators, government officials, policy analysts, and professionals working across industries and education to explore new strategies/measures in support of innovation-centric entrepreneurship. It will engage presenters and participants to examine policy, management and governance, ethical and value issues when promoting innovation, entrepreneurship and value (<https://cher-hongkong.iafor.org/>). As part of its proceedings, the Symposium will engage students enrolling in the Master of Social Sciences in Comparative Social Policy (International) to participate in the event to enhance their learning and research experiences.

Throughout the three-day programme, students will have the opportunity to learn essential methodological, theoretical as well as practical lessons from leading researchers in comparative development, education and policy studies. Students will be organized into groups during the International Symposium to respond to the presentations made by the invited speakers. Special seminars will be organised after the international event to allow students to reflect on, and share their learning experiences. Students will be expected to link their experiences to their individual /group research interests and existing body of literature.

Aims

To enhance student international learning experience through active participation in the Symposium. Students will be exposed to high level academic and practical discussions during the symposium. There will also be opportunities for students to engage in policy and research dialogue with leading scholars and practitioners from the Asia Pacific Region and other parts of the world in comparative development and policy studies fields.

Learning Outcomes (LOs)

Upon completion of this course, successful students will be able to:

1. Appreciate international conference experience through active participation in the annual international symposium organized with Asia Pacific Higher Education Research Partnership, East-West center in USA, and East Asia Social Policy Research Network at Lingnan University
2. Understand the most recent development and policy issues confronted Asia Pacific region through listening to presentations from invited speakers in the international symposium
3. Analyze major social policy responses in managing rapid social, economic, demographic and political changes in Asia Pacific by acting as discussants in the symposium
4. Summarize and reflect their learning experience after the international event in the de-briefing seminars
5. Build the links between what they propose to research and the discussions highlighted in the international symposium
6. Establish a network of learning community in Asia Pacific for further research in comparative development and policy studies
7. Establish relationship between presentations and existing literature.

Partnering Institutions

1. The International Academic Forum and its global partners (<https://cher-hongkong.iafor.org/>)
2. Asia Pacific Higher Education Research Partnership with over 20 universities and research institutes involved as partners (for details, visit website: [http:// apherp.org](http://apherp.org))
3. Keynote speakers from other universities and research institutes such as the East-West Center, USA; University of Cambridge, UK; Virginia Tech, USA; Smart City Consortium, Hong Kong; Osaka University, Japan

Teaching Method

1. Discussions in International Symposium. Students will participate in major presentations by leading scholars and practitioners in Asia Pacific during the international event, followed by discussion.
2. Reflections on learning experiences through de-briefing seminars.
3. Building links between their research topics and discussions highlighted in the international event.
4. Making connections between the presentations in the Symposium and existing literature.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome	Participation	Presentation	Reflective Journal
1. Appreciate international conference experience through active participation in the annual international symposium organized with Asia Pacific Higher Education Research Partnership, East-West center in USA, and East Asia Social Policy Research Network at Lingnan University	✓		✓
2. Understand the most recent development and policy issues confronted Asia Pacific region through listening to presentations	✓		✓

from invited speakers in the international symposium			
3. Analyze major social policy responses in managing rapid social, economic, demographic and political changes in Asia Pacific by acting as discussants in the symposium	✓		✓
4. Summarize and reflect their learning experience after the international event in the de-briefing seminars		✓	✓
5. Build the links between what they propose to research and the discussions highlighted in the international symposium		✓	✓
6. Establish a network of learning community in Asia Pacific for further research in comparative development and policy studies			✓
7. Establish relationship between presentations and existing literature	✓	✓	✓

Assessment

Participation (50%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every student must participate in the International Symposium actively by attending all sessions • Each student will act as a discussant by commenting and responding to presentations of speakers (15%) • Every group has to write up a summary on the major points that they have learned during the event. The summary must be discussed in relation to the <u>two identified research articles</u>. The two articles must use different research methods (around 3000 words) (35%) • Grading will be based on the assessment rubrics provided in the last section of this course outline.
Group Presentation (15%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every group will present their learning experience and discussions and show how the experiences are linked to their research topics • Grading will be based on the assessment rubrics provided in the last section of this course outline.
Reflective Journal (35%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every student will write a reflective journal (around 2,000 words) based on their learning experience and demonstrate how the lessons learned from the Symposium are connected to their individual research projects/interests. Each student must support their discussion with <u>one relevant research article</u>. • Grading will be based on the assessment rubrics provided in the last section of this course outline.

Recommended Readings

In line with the theme of the Symposium, the following readings are recommended

1. Hawkins, J.N. and K.H. Mok, eds. *Research, Development, and Innovation in Asia Pacific Higher Education*. International and Development Education. 2015, Palgrave Macmillan: New York.
2. Wu, A.M. and J.N. Hawkins, eds. *Massification of Higher Education in Asia*. Higher Education in Asia: Quality, Excellence and Governance. 2018, Springer: Singapore.
3. Mok, K.H., ed. *Internationalization of higher education in East Asia: Trends of student mobility and impact on education governance*. Routledge Critical Studies in Asian Education. 2014, Routledge: New York.
4. Mok, K.H., ed. *Managing international connectivity, diversity of learning and changing labour markets: East Asian perspectives*. Higher Education in Asia: Quality, Excellence and Governance. 2017, Springer: Singapore.
5. Mok, K. H. and Kühner, S., eds. *Managing Welfare Expectations and Social Change: Policy Transfer in Asia*. 2018, Routledge: Abingdon/New York.
6. Horsfall, D. and Hudson, J., eds. *Social Policy in an Era of Competition: From Global to Local Perspectives*, 2018, Policy Press: Bristol.

Assessment Rubrics

Discussion and Summary 50%

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Fair	Failure
	A (85-100) A- (80-84)	B+ (75-79) B (70-74) B- (65-69)	C+ (60-64) C (55-59) C- (50-54)	F (0-49)
Discussion				
Acting as discussants in making responses and comments (15%)	Expression of ideas was consistently accurate, logical and clear.	Expression of ideas was generally accurate, logical and clear. Lapses were rare and minor in nature.	Expression of ideas was generally accurate, logical and clear, but with a number of minor lapses.	Ideas were not expressed logically and were characterized by significant inaccuracies and lack of clarity.
Written Summary (35%)				
Content (20%)	Comprehensive understanding and coverage of issues. Wide range of evidence used to support arguments and demonstrate critical thinking.	Clear discussion of relevant issues. Good use of evidence support arguments. Go beyond description.	Show some coverage and understanding of main issues. Adequate range of evidence used. More description than analysis in content.	Very little or no understanding of the issues. Inadequate use of evidence to support argument. Describe the issues but show significant misunderstanding of basic issues.
Organisation (10%)	Clear structure. Present a convincing and well-developed argument.	Clear structure. Present a sound argument.	Argument needs further development. Structure needs more clarity.	Poor structure and no clear argument.
Writing and referencing (5%)	Uses references correctly. Demonstrates excellent writing skills.	Generally uses references correctly but some parts less well referenced. Competent writing skills.	Some parts not referenced correctly. Writing skills could be improved.	Not referenced correctly. Poor writing skills. Need proofreading.

Group Presentation 15%

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Fair	Failure
	A (85-100) A- (80-84)	B+ (75-79) B (70-74) B- (65-69)	C+ (60-64) C (55-59) C- (50-54)	F (0-49)
Accurate comprehension of concepts, and key issues discussed in the Symposium (5%)	Deep understanding of the concepts and critical issues discussed in the Symposium, Demonstrate critical thinking and creativity	Deep understanding of the concepts, and key issues discussed in the Symposium	Good understanding of the concepts, and key issues discussed in the Symposium	Shallow understanding of the concepts, and key issues discussed in the Symposium
Ideas are expressed logically, easy to follow up (5%)	Information is presented in logical and interesting sequence for the audience to follow	Information is presented in organised but sometimes illogical sequence	Loosely connection among some points difficulty for audience to follow	Little sequence in presentation, unable to understand for the audience
Well performed presentation skills (5%)	Demonstrate deep understanding of presentation skills, including speaking, volume, poise, eye contact, communication with audience etc.	Demonstrate sound understanding of presentation skills, including speaking, volume, poise, eye contact, communication with audience etc.	Demonstrate fair understanding of presentation skills, including speaking, volume, poise, eye contact, communication with audience etc.	Demonstrate poor understanding of presentation skills, including speaking, volume, poise, eye contact, communication with audience etc.

Reflective Journal 35%

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Fair	Failure
	A (85-100) A- (80-84)	B+ (75-79) B (70-74) B- (65-69)	C+ (60-64) C (55-59) C- (50-54)	F (0-49)
Understanding of the key issues presented by speakers in the Symposium (8%)	Comprehensive understanding and coverage of issues discussed in the Symposium. Insightful and well-informed discussions of lessons/experiences.	Clear discussion of relevant issues raised in the Symposium. Shows good insight into the topics raised.	Shows some coverage and understanding of main issues raised in the event.	Very little or no understanding of the issues discussed in the event.
Use of evidence (8%)	Wide range of evidence. Thoroughly researched. Use of primary sources.	Good use of evidence to support arguments.	Adequate range of evidence used. Could have drawn on more suitable evidence.	Inadequate use of evidence. No use of evidence to support argument
Critical analysis (8%)	Build excellent links between their research topics and discussions highlighted in the International Symposium. Shows original thinking and analysis.	Build good links between their research topics and discussions highlighted in the International Symposium. Analyses material to develop argument.	Build weak links between their research topics and discussions highlighted in the International Symposium. More description than analysis in content. Needs to draw material together to develop argument.	No links between their research topics and discussions highlighted in the International Symposium. Describes the issues but shows significant misunderstandings..
Structure (6%)	Excellent structure of arguments.	Structure is good.	Structure needs more clarity.	Poor structure. No clear linkage from point to point.
Writing and referencing (5%)	Uses references correctly. Demonstrates excellent writing skills.	Generally uses references correctly but some parts less well referenced. Competent writing skills.	Some parts not referenced correctly. Writing skills could be improved.	Not referenced correctly. Poor writing skills. Needed proofreading.