

# BNU Postgraduate Course Syllabus

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Chinese Name of the Course:	社会政策理论与国际比较
English Name of the Course:	Social Policy theory and international comparison
Course Type:	Elective
Open for Registration to:	All students
Weekly Hours/Total Hours:	2/36
Credits:	2
Semester:	Spring 2016
Instructor:	J.C. B. Leung, Xu Yuebin, Zhang Yan
Time:	10:00am - 11:40am, Wednesday
Location:	Building 8, 404

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## General description

This 2 credit course is intended for students interested in social policy and its international development. Its focus is on development of social policy theory and practices around the world. The course combines lectures, group projects, and class discussions.

## Course Objectives

Through attendance, active participation, and class presentations, students taking this course will meet the following objectives:

- Be knowledgeable about the major social policies in the world;
- Understand the development of social policies;
- Understand the concept and controversies around social policy issues.

## Teaching Methods

The course format includes lectures, 2 class projects, and classroom discussions.

## Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend all sessions and to participate in group projects and discussions. Punctuality is required. They are also expected to read the relevant readings and encouraged to familiarize themselves with the wider literature through searching in the internet.

The final grade will be based on (1) attendance, (2) class projects, and (3) final paper. The

following elaborates:

(1) *Attendance*: An attendance grade of 15% of the total will be assigned.

(2) *Participation in class projects*: All students are required to participate in the 2 class projects. This will contribute 20% to the final grade. The grade will be based on the (1) extensiveness of research undertaken for the topic, (2) knowledge of the topic and (3) coherence of the presentation.

(3) *Final paper*: Students will be required to write a final paper on a topic relating to social policies. The topic can either be based on the previous presentation or about a new topic. A brief summary of the proposed paper, outline and title must be submitted for approval no later than June 10. The final paper must be submitted **no later than July 20**. The title of the paper, and the student's name and number must be shown clearly at the top of the first page. The paper should include a bibliography. The paper **may not exceed 10 double spaced pages** with a minimum of one inch margins all round. The bibliography is included within the maximum paper length. The paper will count for 65% of the final grade. The final paper will be graded on the basis of: (1) clarity of writing, (2) ability to present a coherent and well structured exposition of the material, (3) knowledge of the literature and (4) ability to evaluate the material critically and (5) expression of original ideas and opinions.

## Readings

Readings will be provided after each class. Students are encouraged to engage in bibliographical research to identify sources relevant to the different topics. It is hoped that students get a general familiarization of the literature through the readings.

## Course Schedule, topics and recommended readings:

Week	dd/mm	Topics
1	02/03	<b>Conceptualizing social policy (Xu)</b>
2	09/03	<b>Analyzing social policy (Xu)</b>
3	16/03	<b>Historical development of social policy (Leung)</b>
4	23/03	<b>Social investment (Leung)</b>
5	30/03	<b>Poverty: concepts and measurement (Zhang)</b>
6	06/04	<b>Poverty alleviation policies in developed and developing countries (Zhang)</b>
7	13/04	<b>Class project 1: (Xu)</b>
8	20/04	<b>Managerialism (Leung)</b>

9	27/04	<b>Social Policy Making (Leung)</b>
10	04/05	<b>Social welfare in Hong Kong (Leung)</b>
11	11/05	<b>Social innovations: NGOs and Social enterprises (Leung)</b>
12	18/05	<b>Social Policy in China (Xu)</b>
13	25/05	<b>Pensions (Leung)</b>
14	01/06	<b>Social assistance and workfare (Leung)</b>
15	08/06	<b>Health policy (Xu)</b>
16	15/06	<b>Long-term care (Xu)</b>
17	22/06	<b>Class project 2: (Xu)</b>
18	29/06	<b>Final exam (Xu)</b>