

## THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT**Bachelor of Social Sciences - Politics and Public Administration**  
**(major and minor)**

The Politics and Public Administration major consists of five different types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. The majority of courses are 6-credit courses, but we also have a 12-credit internship course. As for the workload of courses, the norm is that a 6-credit course provides 150 hours of student learning activity, which include both contact hours (2 hours of lecture and 1 hour of tutorial per week for 13 weeks) and other forms of student learning activity. Given that different types of courses cover different subject matters and adopt different learning modes, the exact number of contact hours and output requirements for different types of course vary.

*1. Introductory courses (6 credits)*

These are standard 6-credit introductory courses. Teaching normally takes the form of one 2-hour lecture and one 1-hour tutorial each week throughout a regular 13-week semester. Assessment tasks will normally include tutorial performance, writing of essays (around 1,000-3,000 words), individual or group projects, and 2-hour written examinations (50-60% coursework, 40-50% exam).

*2. Advanced courses (6 credits)*

These are standard 6-credit advanced courses. Teaching normally takes the form of one 2-hour lecture and one 1-hour tutorial each week throughout a regular 13-week semester. Assessment tasks will normally include tutorial performance, writing of essays (around 1,000-3,000 words), individual or group projects, and 2-hour written examinations (50-60% coursework, 40-50% exam).

*3. Research courses (6 credits)*

These courses offer opportunities to students to learn to do research as an intern in ongoing empirical research project, or conduct an independent and empirical investigation on a specific issue in political science, under a teacher's supervision in the Department. Students are required to meet individually with the supervisor (around 2 hours per week), read relevant theoretical and empirical articles, participate in (ongoing) empirical research project, and write a research report. The students are expected to spend at least 6 hours per week on the research project. Assessment takes the form of a research report which will be around 5,000 words (100% coursework).

*4. Internship (12 credits)*

The internships enable students to work and learn in the professional world and local communities. They enable students to apply what they have learned from regular classes at the University and to identify and analyze problems in a local community or work place. Students participating in these courses can reflect upon how concepts learned in class can help in solving social problems, analyzing social and policy issues, and promoting social innovation in Hong Kong and beyond. Assessment is normally based upon performance in work placement (240 hours of work), reflective journal and literature review (totaling about 2,500 words), integrated essay (4,000 words) and/or presentation (100% coursework). Total learning activities: 300

hours

5. *Thesis writing (12 credits)*

The research courses aim at providing students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interests under the supervision of a teacher. The teacher and the students will work together to develop a research plan that stipulates the scope and substance of the research. While the students are expected to take the initiative to conduct the research, the teacher will actively supervise the research and monitor the students' progress. This course requires 300 hours of learning. Students are advised to meet their supervisors on a regular basis for about 30 contact hours. Assessment takes the form of a dissertation at around 10,000 words (100% coursework).