

**GEOG2136 Political Geography: International Relations and the World Economy****TIMETABLE ARRANGEMENT:** Annual; 2nd Semester**CREDITS:** 6**COURSE TEACHER:** Professor Junxi QIAN**ASSESSMENT:**

EXAMINATION 60 %	COURSEWORK 40 %
• 2 hours	• 1 essay

**OBJECTIVES:**

This course provides students with an overview and fundamental understanding of the ways in which political issues are dealt with through geographical and spatial perspectives.

**COURSE SYNOPSIS:**

This course provides students with an overview and fundamental understanding of the ways in which political issues are dealt with through geographical and spatial perspectives. Students will be trained with skills to understand inter-state relations and competitions in the contemporary world economic system. Major concepts and definitions in Political Geography will first be introduced, and this is to be followed by a brief introduction of the intellectual history and lineage of Political Geography. Theoretical issues and empirical cases, grouped into a number of topics, will then be presented. The tenet of this course is to show how world order and the lived experiences of people are shaped by, but also reshape, the respective capacities of, and interactions between, state regimes. It is to show that sovereignty, territoriality and nation-state matter a great deal in defining global economy and social transformation. Topics investigated in the course include: classical geopolitical theories; global economy and the world-system; geopolitics; colonialism and imperialism; the territorial state; nation-state and nationalism; border and border control; liberal democracy and social democracy.

**LECTURE TOPICS:**

- Intellectual history of political geography and classical geopolitical theories
- Basic concepts in political geography
- Global economy and the world-system
- Geopolitics and the practice of international relations
- Imperialism and colonialism
- Territorial power of the state
- Nation-state, nationalism and citizenship
- Social democracy vs. liberal democracy
- Border and border control in the era of Covid-19

**RECOMMENDED READING LIST:**

- Cox, K. (2002). Political Geography: Territory, State, and Society. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Flint, C., & Taylor, P. (2018). Political Geography: World-economy, Nation-state and Locality, 7th edition. London: Routledge.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) After completing this course, students would be able to:		Alignment with Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)*						Course Assessment Methods
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	have a preliminary understanding of the intellectual history of political geography	✓						Essay & exam
2	have a solid understanding of the theories, definitions and concepts in Political Geography	✓	✓					Essay & exam
3	understand the mutual relationships between spatial patterns and mechanism on the one hand, and major political issues of the current world on the other		✓	✓				Essay & exam
4	develop an ability to draw from concepts and theories in political geography to critically reflect on the latest political changes in Hong Kong, Asia and the globe			✓	✓			Essay & exam
5	develop basic skills to interpret empirical cases, and link political geographical issues with broader social, economic and cultural changes					✓	✓	Essay & exam

### **\*Geography Major Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)**

In order to meet the demands and challenges in this dynamic and ever-changing world, the Department has designed a series of well-structured and contemporary courses to cater to the different interests of students. Its courses are designed to align with the University's educational aims which hope to nurture future generations not only with a critical and intellectual mindset, but also with a passion to contribute to society in general.

After completing the programme, Geography Major students should be able to:

**PLO1** critically analyse the geographical aspects of the relationship between people and the natural environment;

**PLO2** demonstrate and develop an understanding of how these relationships have changed with space and over time;

**PLO3** identify, collect and utilize primary and secondary data to investigate and analyse the issues and problems facing people, places and society;

**PLO4** integrate, evaluate and communicate information from a variety of geographical and other sources;

**PLO5** participate in promoting social, economic and environmental sustainability at the local, regional and global scales; and

**PLO6** effectively apply a range of transferable skills in academic, professional and social settings.