

PIA6302: PUBLIC BUDGETING AND THE MANAGEMENT OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Public Budgeting and the Management of Financial Resources

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

6302

Academic Unit

Public and International Affairs (PIA)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

POL6302 Public Budgeting and the Management of Financial Resources

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

- Introduce the key concepts and core issues in public budgeting and financial management;
- Detect the problems and shortfalls of traditional budgeting and the objectives of budgeting and financial management reforms;
- Evaluate current trends in budgetary and financial management reforms, both locally and internationally;
- Understand key issues in the public budgeting and financial management in Hong Kong with a view to critically assessing them with the techniques introduced in this class.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Detect the core issues and current changes in public budgeting and financial management	10	x		
2	Explain the framework, principles, processes and politics of public budgeting and financial management in Hong Kong	15	x		
3	Appraise budgeting and financial management reforms in Hong Kong during the pre-1997 colonial period and the post-1997 special administrative region era	30	x	x	x
4	Examine the critical issues in budgeting and financial management reform (including performance, costs and devolution) and their implications	15	x	x	x
5	Discover and compare the international trends in budgeting and financial management reforms especially in OECD countries and in some developed Asian countries	30	x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture and readings	Lecture, classroom short-discussion, and assigned readings	1	
2	Lecture and readings	Lectures, classroom short-discussion, assigned readings, government publications and website	2, 3	

3	Lecture, readings and group project	Lectures, assigned readings, student seminar, practitioner seminar with senior government official or legislator as speakers, student group projects (involving group work and report writing)	4, 5	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	The group project report, at least 4000 words.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30	
2	Timed online assignment	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	70	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Additional Information for ATs

Note: The assignment enables a student to demonstrate the degree of understanding of the subject matter, analytical and presentational skills, and the ability to put issues into relevant perspectives. The group project enables students, as a team, to demonstrate the depth and breadth of knowledge of a practical problem, and how that problem can be tackled with reference to the conceptual notions of public budgeting and financial resources and some 'real world' issues, in addition to the insight and lessons that can be drawn from the global trends. The project report also tests the organizational, analytical and presentation skills of students.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Group Project Report (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Quality of the report

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High standard of knowledge of the different approaches to budgeting, recent public sector financial management reforms, and the core concepts and techniques of financial resource management in the public sector.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Fairly good understanding of the different approaches to budgeting recent public sector financial management reforms, and the core concepts and techniques of financial resource management in the public sector.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Rudimentary understanding of the different approaches to budgeting recent public sector financial management reforms, and the core concepts and techniques of financial resource management in the public sector.

Marginal

(D) Poor understanding of the different approaches to budgeting recent public sector financial management reforms, and the core concepts and techniques of financial resource management in the public sector.

Failure

(F) Almost no knowledge of the different approaches to budgeting, recent public sector financial management reforms, and the core concepts and techniques of financial resource management in the public sector.

Assessment Task

Assignment (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Quality of the assignment

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High standard of knowledge of the different approaches to budgeting, recent public sector financial management reforms, and the core concepts and techniques of financial resource management in the public sector.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Fairly good understanding of the different approaches to budgeting recent public sector financial management reforms, and the core concepts and techniques of financial resource management in the public sector.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Rudimentary understanding of the different approaches to budgeting recent public sector financial management reforms, and the core concepts and techniques of financial resource management in the public sector.

Marginal

(D) Poor understanding of the different approaches to budgeting recent public sector financial management reforms, and the core concepts and techniques of financial resource management in the public sector.

Failure

(F) Almost no knowledge of the different approaches to budgeting, recent public sector financial management reforms, and the core concepts and techniques of financial resource management in the public sector.

Assessment Task

Group Project Report (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Quality of the report

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High standard of knowledge of the different approaches to budgeting, recent public sector financial management reforms, and the core concepts and techniques of financial resource management in the public sector.

Good

(B+, B) Fairly good understanding of the different approaches to budgeting recent public sector financial management reforms, and the core concepts and techniques of financial resource management in the public sector.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Rudimentary understanding of the different approaches to budgeting recent public sector financial management reforms, and the core concepts and techniques of financial resource management in the public sector.

Failure

(F) Almost no knowledge of the different approaches to budgeting, recent public sector financial management reforms, and the core concepts and techniques of financial resource management in the public sector.

Assessment Task

Assignment (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Quality of the assignment

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High standard of knowledge of the different approaches to budgeting, recent public sector financial management reforms, and the core concepts and techniques of financial resource management in the public sector.

Good

(B+, B) Fairly good understanding of the different approaches to budgeting recent public sector financial management reforms, and the core concepts and techniques of financial resource management in the public sector.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Rudimentary understanding of the different approaches to budgeting recent public sector financial management reforms, and the core concepts and techniques of financial resource management in the public sector.

Failure

(F) Almost no knowledge of the different approaches to budgeting, recent public sector financial management reforms, and the core concepts and techniques of financial resource management in the public sector.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Changes and issues in public budgeting. Management of public finances in Hong Kong: framework, roles and relationships. Budgetary principles, processes and politics in Hong Kong. Financial Management in Hong Kong until 1997. Financial Management Reform in Hong Kong after 1997. One-line Budgets and Expenditure Envelopes. Public sector downsizing and reengineering. Managing performance. Managing costs efficiency. Managing devolution of fiscal powers and responsibilities. Value for money and auditing. New Public Management and budget and financial management reforms in OECD countries. Budgeting for results and outcomes. Budgeting and financial management reforms in selected Asian country(ies).

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	Mikesell, John. 2013. "Fiscal Administration." 9th edition (8th edition can be used with awareness on some updates). Wadsworth Publishing.
2	Eliza Lee, 2011: "History and Context of Public Administration in Hong Kong"
3	Ian Scott, 2010: "Policy and Budgetary Cycle in Hong Kong"
4	Anthony Cheung 2011. "Performance Management in Hong Kong"
5	Wilson Wong. 2009. "The Days after the End of the Asian Miracle: The Budget Crisis of Hong Kong," in Sing Ming, ed., Politics and Government in Hong Kong: Crisis under Chinese Sovereignty. (UK: Routledge).
6	Anthony Cheung. 2006. "Budgetary Reforms in Two City States: Impact on the Central Budget Agency in Hong Kong and Singapore," International Review of Administrative Sciences, 72(3): 341-361.
7	Lam, N. M. K. (2000) "The Changing Functions of Public Budgeting in Hong Kong," Public Administration and Policy, Vol. 9, No. 2, September, pp. 1-26.
8	Lui, Richard, Kwok-Man (2008). "New Public Management in Hong Kong: Financial, Personal and Performance Aspects," Conference paper on "New Public Management and Quality of Government."
9	Peter Cheung, 2011 "Intergovernmental Relations Between Mainland China and the Hong Kong SAR"
10	Irene Rubin, 2013. The Politics of Public Budgeting: Getting and Spending, Borrowing and Balancing. 7th edition.
11	XiaoHu Wang, 2014. Financial Management in the Public Sector. 3rd edition. Routledge/ME.Sharp

12	Wai Fung LAM and Kwan Nok CHAN. 2015. "How Authoritarianism Intensifies Punctuated Equilibrium: The Dynamics of Policy Attention in Hong Kong". <i>Governance: An International Journal of Policy, Administration, and Institution</i> . 28 (4): 549-570
13	Journals:
14	Public Budgeting and Finance
15	The OECD Journal on Budgeting
16	Public Administration Review
17	Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting and Financial Management
18	Municipal Finance Journal
19	Public Finance Review
20	National Tax Journal
21	Online Resources:
22	Efficiency Unit (HK) http://www.eu.gov.hk
23	Financial Services & Treasury Bureau (HK) http://www.fstb.gov.hk/eng/sfst/fstb.html
24	Legislative Council website: http://www.legco.gov.hk/english/index.htm
25	Annual Budget website: http://www.budget.gov.hk/
26	Annual Estimates website: http://www.budget.gov.hk/2009/eng/estimates.html
27	Tax Reform in Hong Kong website: http://www.taxreform.gov.hk/eng/news.htm
28	OECD Public Management http://www.oecd.org
29	Hong Kong Financial Services and Treasury Bureau: http://www.fstb.gov.hk/tb/eng/press/content.html
30	Hong Kong Government Public Finance Fact Sheet: http://www.gov.hk/en/about/abouthk/factsheets/docs/public_finance.pdf
31	SynergyNet (2013), "Review of Hong Kong's Public Finances 2013". Available at: http://www.synergynet.org.hk/file/file/Public_Finance_Report_2013.pdf (in Chinese)
32	SynergyNet (2012), "Review of Hong Kong's Public Finances 2012". Available at: http://www.synergynet.org.hk/pdf/201201292672_b5.pdf (in Chinese)
33	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, HKSAR Government. (June 2007) Final Report of Public Consultation on Tax Reform (available at: http://www.fstb.gov.hk/tb/eng/press/content.html)

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Nil