

## **GEOG2136 Political Geography (6 credits)**

**Course Teacher: Dr J X Qian**

### **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**

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, social transformation and culture. Topics investigated in the course include: classical geopolitical theories; global economy and the world-system; critical geopolitics; globalization and the regulation of difference; imperialism and post-colonial geographies; territoriality, sovereignty and the border; nation-state, nationalism and citizenship.

### **Lecture Topics**

- Intellectual history of political geography
- Classical geopolitical theories
- Global economy and the world-system
- Critical geopolitics
- Globalization and the regulation of difference
- Imperialism and post-colonial geographies
- Territoriality, sovereignty and the border
- Nation-state, nationalism and citizenship

### **Assessment**

Examination (two hours) 60%; Coursework 40%.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Knowledge:

- Have a preliminary understanding of the intellectual history of Political Geography.
- Have a solid understanding of the theories, definitions and concepts in Political Geography.
- Understand the mutual relationships between spatial patterns and mechanism on the one hand, and major political issues of the current world on the other.

Skills:

- 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.
- Develop basic skills to interpret empirical cases, and link political geographical issues with broader social, economic and cultural changes.

### **Recommended Reading List**

1. Cox, K. (2002) *Political Geography: Territory, State, and Society*. Oxford: Blackwell.
2. Flint, C & P. Taylor (2011) *Political Geography: World-economy, Nation-state and Locality*. London: Routledge.