

## HKU SPACE Po Leung Kuk Stanley Ho Community College

### CCSA8004 – China’s Development, Hong Kong and the National Security Law (NSL)

#### Frequently Asked Questions

##### **Graduation Requirements**

#### **1. What are the graduation requirements for Associate Degree / Higher Diploma students?**

To be awarded an Associate Degree / Higher Diploma, students should fulfill the following graduation requirements:

- (a) obtain at least 60 credits of courses as prescribed in the Years 1 and 2 curricula of the programme for which they are registered (66 credits for Higher Diploma in Legal Executives);
- (b) achieve a Cumulative GPA of 1.7 or above;
- (c) obtain Grade C- or above in all core English courses\*;
- (d) obtain a pass for the course *CCSA8004 - China’s Development, Hong Kong and the National Security Law* (NSL); and
- (e) fulfill programme graduation requirements (for specific programmes only)\*

*\* Please refer to p.42-43 of the HPSHCC Student Handbook 2025-26 for the list of core English courses and specific programme graduation requirements. The Student Handbook can be downloaded from the Learner Portal.*

##### **Course Information**

#### **2. What is the course about?**

The course introduces the background and context upon which the judicial system of China, Hong Kong Basic Law and National Security Law were founded, as well as the key provisions of the National Security Law. Topics include:

- (a) Module 1 – From Marx to Mao: Emergence of Socialist Ideology in China
- (b) Module 2 – Rise of Modern China: Challenges and Progress
- (c) Module 3 – Hong Kong: From the Nanking Treaty to the Basic Law
- (d) Module 4 – National Security Law: Provisions and Precedents

#### **3. What is the study mode of the course?**

The course is delivered in a self-directed learning format. Course materials which include four recorded lecture videos and PowerPoint slides are available on SOUL platform (<https://soul2.hkuspace.hku.hk>) (Course Code in SOUL: CCSA8004-HP). Students are expected to study the online course materials at their own pace. A mock quiz is also available on SOUL to assist you in better preparing for the examination.

**4. What is the medium of instruction for this course?**

The course is conducted and assessed in English.

**Assessments and Examination Arrangements**

**5. How will I be assessed?**

The assessment is based on final examination. Students are required to take a 1-hour proctored in-person NSL examination held on campus during the examination period. It is a closed-book multiple-choice examination and will only test the knowledge of the factual information. No opinion will be asked.

**6. What is the grading scheme of the course?**

The course grade is either “P” (Pass) or “U” (Unsatisfactory/Fail). The result of this non-credit bearing course is shown on transcript and not counted in Grade Point Average (GPA).

**7. What is the passing mark of the course?**

Students are required to achieve a final mark of at least 50%.

**8. Do I need to apply for taking the NSL examination?**

Students will be automatically assigned to take the NSL examination according to the following schedule. No application is required.

<b>NSL Examination in</b>	<b>Who to take the NSL Examination</b>
<b>Semester 1, 2025-26</b> <i>(Dec 2025/Jan 2026)</i>	<b>For students who have NOT passed the NSL examination in May/July 2025.</b> <i>(If students fail the examination in Semester 1, 2025-26, they will be automatically assigned to sit in the next available offering of the examination (i.e. Semester 2, 2025-26). No application is required.)</i>
<b>Semester 2, 2025-26</b> <i>(May 2026)</i>	<b>For Year 1 new students (including DFS students progressing to Year 1 in 2025-26 academic year) and students who have NOT passed the NSL examination in Dec 2025/Jan 2026.</b> <i>(If students fail the examination in Semester 2, 2025-26, they will be automatically assigned to sit in the next available offering of the examination as follows:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• Year 1 students: Semester 1, 2026-27</i></li><li><i>• Year 2 students: Early July 2026)</i></li></ul>

**9. I have failed the previous NSL examination. Do I need to apply for retaking the NSL examination?**

Students who failed the examination will be automatically assigned to take the next available offering of the examination (please refer to the table in Question 8 for details). No application is required.

**10. I am a Year 1 new student. Do I need to apply for taking the NSL examination?**

Year 1 new students (including DFS students progressing to Year 1 in 2025-26 academic year) will be automatically assigned to take the NSL examination in Semester 2 this year. No application is required.

**11. When will the timetable for NSL examination be released?**

The NSL examination timetable will be released around three weeks before the examination period. Announcement will be made via the Learner Portal nearer the time.

Students may refer to the College's academic calendar (available in the HPSHCC Student Handbook 2025-26) for the designated examination periods for the semesters.

**12. Can I change the NSL examination session?**

Requests for examination session changes will NOT be accommodated. Students are required to attend the examination as scheduled. A fail grade (U) will be given for the course and presented on their transcript if students fail to attend the assigned examination session.

**13. If I cannot attend the examination due to illness on the examination day, what should I do?**

You are required to apply for absence from examination. You have to complete the form "*Application for Absence from Examinations*" (HP43-ABE) (obtainable on the Learner Portal (Path: [Learner Portal > My Resources > Student Services Forms](#))) and submit it together with the original supporting documents and application fee (HK\$300 per course) to the College Office within 5 working days after the date of examination concerned (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, Public Holidays and School Holidays). Students who are absent from examination without application submitted will receive a fail grade (U) for the course.

**14. When will the examination results be released?**

The results will be announced on the date of release of assessment results as shown in the academic calendar.

**15. Under what circumstances will I fail the NSL examination?**

Under the following circumstances, students will receive a fail grade (U) for the course:

- Fail to achieve a final mark of at least 50%
- Fail to attend the NSL examination as scheduled (without submitting application for absence from examination)
- Application for absence from examination not approved by the Board of Examiners

The fail grade will be shown on the transcript, and they are required to sit for the next available offering of examination again.

**16. Will the course result be recorded on the transcript?**

The results of all your attempts will be recorded on the transcript.

***Other Matters***

**17. Do I have to take this course if I receive a conditional offer from other universities?**

For students who are not progressing to Year 2 in the College, they are not required to take this course before leaving the College. However, students may be required to fulfill the National Security Law course requirements in the institutions to which they articulate.

**18. Is this course equivalent to the Basic Law and National Security Law Test for all civil service jobs by the Government's Civil Service Bureau?**

Passing of this course is only considered as a graduation requirement of HKU SPACE Po Leung Kuk Stanley Ho Community College.

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