

The Development of Higher Education and Political Science in Taiwan

Chung-min Tsai

Department of Political Science

National Chengchi University

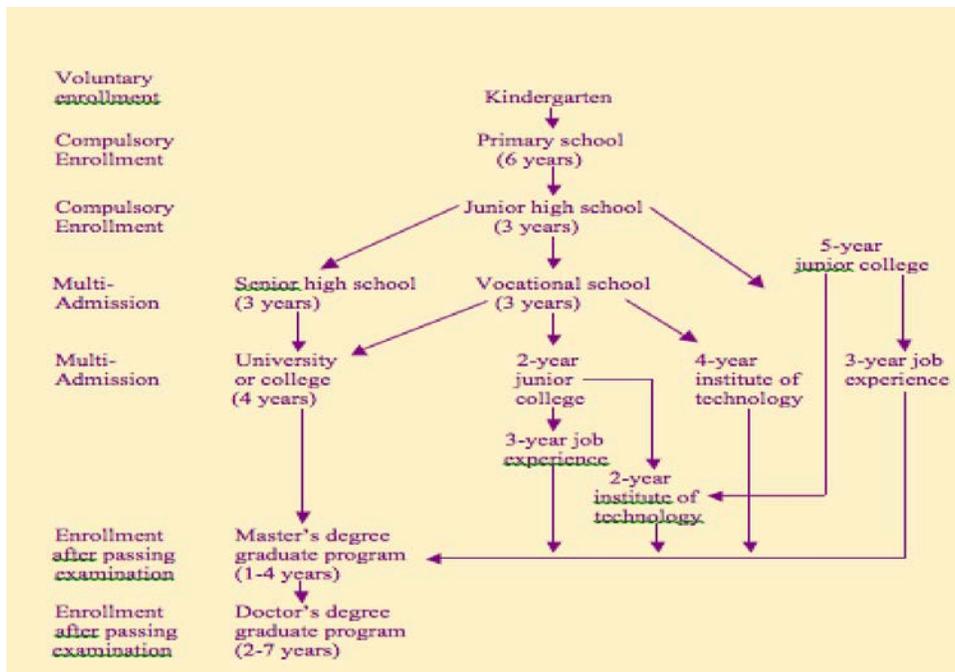
Introduction:

The study of Political Science in Taiwan dates back to the years immediately following the Chinese Civil War and a movement of the ROC Nationalist government to Taipei, in 1949. Although higher education in Taiwan had already begun, the Nationalist government prioritized several courses of study outside of the traditional study of medicine and engineering originally taught in Japanese schools there. Since then, the study of Political Science has become a major pursuit for Taiwanese college students where 7 separate and dedicated programs as well as several supplemental Political Science-related departments (most public administration/public policy) were established.

These seven programs have, in recent years, been faced with a number of challenges, including; a shrinking student population, a lack of professional opportunities for graduates, insufficient area expertise and course diversity, and a narrow conceptual framework with a heavy emphasis on SSCI publication and Taiwan studies. Moreover, in the digital age, overcoming these challenges have become the urgent tasks for political scientists in Taiwan in order to better engage in the global community.

Higher Education in Taiwan, History and Overview:

The foundation of the Taiwanese Education System has its roots in the Qing Dynasty, when the Manchu Emperor Kuanghsiu made education compulsory with a schooling law in 1902. Since then the Taiwanese system has been upgraded to follow the diagram below, which resembles most modern models.¹



Source: <http://english.moe.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=14487&ctNode=11429&mp=1>

During Imperial China, however, the only form of higher education that could be pursued had to be done in Beijing, leaving only primary and secondary institutions to local areas. Not until the Japanese colonial period were universities established, mostly in Taipei, but primarily offered only to the privileged Taiwanese and Japanese in Taiwan.² This was the first stage of higher education development in Taiwan. Although the major courses of study focused on medicine and engineering, this established a precedent for higher learning. The second phase of higher education on the island began with the migration of the nationalist forces (KMT government) from mainland China to Taiwan in 1949. It was during this time that the government began a rigorous implementation of the Chinese examination system. During that time, the number of institutions and students in attendance grew rapidly. As a result of an increasingly educated population and response to harsh military rule, the University system was liberalized after an end to martial law in 1988, beginning with the right for universities to appoint candidates for institutional

² Wu et al. *The Development of Higher Education in Taiwan*. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht. (1989).

president pending their approval by the Ministry of Education in 1994, followed by complete autonomy in 2005.³

| Year | Type of institutions | | |
|------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| | Colleges and universities | Junior colleges | Total |
| 1950 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| 1960 | 15 | 12 | 27 |
| 1970 | 22 | 70 | 92 |
| 1980 | 26 | 77 | 103 |
| 1986 | 28 | 77 | 105 |

Source: Ministry of Education, *Educational Statistics of the ROC (Taipei, 1987)*, pp. 2-5.

| Year | Type of institutions | | |
|------|---------------------------|------------------|---------|
| | Colleges and universities | Junior colleges* | Total |
| 1950 | 5,379 | 1,286 | 6,665 |
| 1960 | 27,172 | 7,888 | 35,060 |
| 1970 | 95,145 | 55,301 | 150,446 |
| 1980 | 159,394 | 105,246 | 264,640 |
| 1986 | 198,166 | 147,570 | 345,736 |

* Students of Grades 1, 2, and 3 at 5-year junior colleges are excluded.

Source: Ministry of Education, *Educational Statistics of the ROC (Taipei, 1987)*, pp. 18-21.

Since then Taiwan has become a society that values education above all else but mainly focused on sciences and engineering majors. As a percent of per capita of income, Taiwanese people spend a higher percentage of their income on education for their children and themselves than in any other country. Contemporary Taiwanese students

³ Chuing Chou, "Higher Education Development in Taiwan," in *Mass Higher Education Development in East Asia: Strategy, Quality, and Challenges*, Jung Cheol Shin, Gerard A. Postiglione, and Futao Huang, eds., Singapore: Springer, pp. 89-103.

work hard to prepare for college entrance exams to get into top universities like other Asian students. Below is a list of the highest ranked Universities in Taiwan and their respective world ranking. There are fifteen universities but only three of them have political science majors, including National Taiwan University, National Chengchi University, and National Sun Yat-sen University (only graduate institute).

Table 5-6 World University Rankings

Unit: Rank

| 2013年 Year | | | 2014年 Year | | | 2015年 Year | | | |
|------------|---------|------|------------|---------|------|------------|---------|------|--|
| Times | QS | ARWU | Times | QS | ARWU | Times | QS | ARWU | |
| 142 | 82 | 125 | 155 | 76 | 141 | 167 | 70 | 154 | 國立臺灣大學 National Taiwan University |
| 251-275 | 199 | 247 | 251-275 | 167 | 281 | 251-300 | 155 | 288 | 國立清華大學 National Tsing Hua University |
| 251-275 | 230 | 340 | 276-300 | 202 | 326 | 301-350 | 182 | 357 | 國立交通大學 National Chiao Tung University |
| 301-350 | 247 | 311 | 351-400 | 232 | 297 | 401-500 | 224 | 319 | 國立成功大學 National Cheng Kung University |
| - | 295 | 414 | - | 256 | 463 | 401-500 | 338 | - | 國立陽明大學 National Yang Ming University |
| 351-400 | 411-420 | - | 351-400 | 371 | - | 301-350 | 260 | - | 國立臺灣科技大學 National Taiwan University of Science and Technology |
| - | 363 | - | - | 379 | - | 601-800 | 421-430 | - | 臺北醫學大學 Taipei Medical University |
| 351-400 | 401-410 | 495 | - | 401-410 | - | 501-600 | 397 | - | 國立中央大學 National Central University |
| - | 481-490 | - | - | 411-420 | - | 501-600 | 376 | - | 國立臺灣師範大學 National Taiwan Normal University |
| 301-350 | 461-470 | 476 | 351-400 | 431-440 | 425 | 501-600 | 379 | 447 | 國立中山大學 National Sun Yat-sen University |
| - | 501-550 | 390 | - | 431-440 | 409 | 601-800 | 461-470 | 437 | 長庚大學 Chang Gung University |
| - | 551-600 | - | - | 501-550 | - | 601-800 | 501-550 | - | 國立中興大學 National Chung Hsing University |
| - | 551-600 | - | - | 551-600 | - | - | 551-600 | - | 國立臺北科技大學 Taipei Tech |
| - | 601-650 | - | - | 601-650 | - | 601-800 | 651-700 | - | 國立政治大學 National Chengchi University |
| - | 701+ | - | - | 701+ | - | 601-800 | - | - | 輔仁大學 Fu Jen Catholic University |

Source: <http://english.moe.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=16901&ctNode=11432&mp=1>

Recently, Taiwan has made major leaps in education reform, including in the areas of Gender and Minority equality of education. The Gender Equity Education Act of June 2004, not only focuses on institutionalizing guidelines and systems which have provided a more level playing field for both sexes, but also focuses on reducing on campus gender-related incidents and educating on issues related to gender inequality. The Ministry of Education in tandem with the Council of Indigenous Peoples under Executive Yuan ensures the provision of equal opportunity for education to indigenous peoples, as well as protects traditional education practices and curriculum.⁴

In 1996, Executive Yuan Council on Education Reform promulgated the “Report on Education Reform”, an initiative that is designed to encourage professionals to value recurrent learning while instilling a yearning for knowledge in the younger generation. Their primary objectives have been to pair with learning institutions and businesses to seek new avenues of learning, integrate the information technology and e-learning, and have even gone so far as to issue something called “Lifelong Learning Cars (Passports).”⁵

Relevant Institutions for Political Science in Taiwan:

With the robust development in higher education in Taiwan, the field of political science has demonstrated a very different picture. The first department of political science was established in 1947 at National Taiwan University, followed by the National Chengchi in 1955. Nonetheless, there are currently only seven Universities (four public schools and three private schools) in Taiwan that boast a separate and fully equipped Political Science Departments. They are: National Taiwan University (NTU), National Chengchi University (NCCU), National Chung Cheng University, National Cheng Kung University (NCKU), Soochow University, Chinese Culture University, and Tunghai University. Each one provides all three levels of degree attainment through Bachelor, Master, and Doctorate programs and all but Chinese Culture University have English as well as Chinese language instruction. In addition to the seven primary programs for Political Science in Taiwan, there are a number of subsequent departments in various institutions

⁴ For more detailed information, see
<http://english.moe.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=14932&ctNode=11411&mp=1>;
<http://english.moe.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=14934&ctNode=11411&mp=1>

⁵ For more detailed information, see
<http://english.moe.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=14941&ctNode=11411&mp=1>.

that offer Political Science courses in either a broader context or as a supplemental discipline within a course study of a closely related discipline; Law, Sociology, Education, Regional Studies, Political Economy, and etc. Moreover, there are more than 20 relevant institutions for public administration and/or public policy established in the past two decades in Taiwan.

| Institution & Date Founded | Department | Level |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------|
| National Taiwan University | Political Science (Founded 1947) | BA/MA/PHD |
| National Chengchi University | Department of Political Science (Founded 1955) | BA/MA/PHD |
| Soochow University | Department of Political Science | BA/MA/PHD |
| Chinese Culture University | Department of Political Science / Graduate Institute of Political Science | BA/MA/PHD |
| National Chung Cheng University | Department and Graduate Institute of Political Science (Founded 1993) | BA/MA/PHD |
| National Cheng Kung University | Department of Political Science / Inst. of Political Economy | BA/MA/PHD |
| Tunghai University | Department of Political Science | BA/MA/PHD |

Source: piled by the author.

The relevant departments each have a unique story and composition. Below, is a brief survey of each department, the courses they study, and their contribution to the academic pursuit of political science in Taiwan.

National Taiwan University - Department of Political Science:

(<http://politics.ntu.edu.tw/english/?p=10077>)

National Taiwan University, Formerly Taipei Imperial University during Japanese rule changed its name in 1945 once being transferred back under the authority of the Chinese

Nationalist Government following the end of World War II. Soon afterward in 1947, this department was founded as part of the Law school, becoming independent under subsequent reorganizations and eventually adding a masters and PhD track. NTU has the highest rank as a University and its social science departments have been ranked 50th in the world and 4th in Asia. The faculty consists of 35 dedicated professors with another 30+ falling under adjunct and emeritus status. The three divisions of this department, Political Theory, International Relations, and Public Administration each accept 50 students per year. NTU's strength comes from their international and domestic prestige, especially in publications and research.

Relevant Courses: Political Parties and Electoral Systems, Research Methods of Social Science, Western Political Philosophy, The Political Economy of Development in Taiwan, Chinese Political Philosophy, Modern Political Thought, Theories of Comparative Politics, Introduction to the Study of Law, Political Economy, Political Sociology, Political Psychology, Methodology of Social Science, Theories of Comparative Politics, Legislation, Political Development And Democratization

Research Centers: Program for East Asia Democratic Studies, Taiwan Public Affairs Center, Taiwan Security Research Center, The Research and Educational Center for China Studies and Cross- Taiwan Strait Relations, European Studies Center

Publications: Taiwanese Journal of Political Science, Mainland China Studies Newsletter, Political Science Quarterly Book Review, Asian Ethnicity

National Chengchi University – Department of Political Science

(<http://www.politics.nccu.edu.tw/about/pages.php?ID=about1>)

National Chengchi University was actually established in Nanjing, China in 1928 under the name The Central School of Politics and given its current name in 1946. After the Chinese Civil War, NCCU and the political science department relocated to Taipei and re-opened in 1955. In 1956, NCCU became the first university in Taiwan to have a PhD

program for political science. The department takes focuses on quantitative and qualitative methodological in the greater subjects of comparative politics, political philosophy and more specifically, Chinese politics. The department employs 28 full time professors with a pool of 9 part time and honorary professors. NCCU's strength comes from 2 areas; 1) the range of topics covered, especially in comparative European, Asian and American politics; and, 2) their connectivity to the public sector in Taiwan. NCCU is largely seen as a top recruitment pool for public servants.

Relevant Courses: Political Philosophy, Party Politics, American Politics, Political Development in Mainland China, Political Science, Public Opinion & Survey, Political Science Methodology, Japanese Politics, Political Thoughts in China, French Politics, ROC Constitution and Government, Political Public Relations, Development and Policy, Cross Strait Relations, Theories on Human Rights, Political Industrial Relations, Political Thought in Pre-Chin Era, Political Economy, Statistical Methods, German Politics, Nationalism, Religion and Democracy, Legislative Behavior, Comparative Politics, Philosophy of Social Science.

Research Centers: Election Studies Center, the Institute of International Relations

Publications: Taiwanese Political Science Review

Soochow University - Department of Political Science:

(<http://www2.scu.edu.tw/politics/default.asp?Subject=eProfile>)

Soochow University began as many others in Taiwan did, in Mainland China. After the Chinese Civil War, the Soochow Alumni Association established the University in Taipei, one of the 5 to do so at the time, simultaneously setting up the Department of Political Science. Currently the department boasts close to 500 undergraduate students, 70 masters and more than 10 PhD candidates and a staff of 22 full professors and 20 lecturers. Soochow's strength is in their dedication to research. The department has published over

500 articles since the early 2000's. They also have a robust exchange program with primarily, Asia and the United States.

Relevant Courses: Introduction to Chinese Political Thought, Introduction to Western Political Thought, Study of Political Codes and Records, Political Thought and Contemporary Issues, Political Literature, Introduction to Political Concepts, Public Speaking and Politics, Democratic Theories, Gender Politics, Contemporary Human Rights Issues, Contemporary Chinese Human Rights Issues, Chinese Culture and Politics, International Human Rights Protection: Asia, Globalization and Democratic Governance, Post-Modern Political Thought, Contemporary Chinese Political Thought, Contemporary European and American Political Thought, Peace and War, Political Communication, Political Psychology, Political History of Taiwan, Political Sociology, Political Economy, Political Development, Green Social Movement and Politics, New Media and Politics, Political Behavior, American Government and Politics, Theories and Practice of Legislative Politics, Voting Behavior (English), PRC Political Economic Development during the 80s, Will of the People and Opinion Poll, CCP Government and Politics, Political Development in Taiwan, French Government and Politics.

Research Centers: Center for Globalization Studies, Center for Legislative Studies, Center for EU Studies, Center for UN Studies, Metropolitan Governance Studies Center, Workshop for Human Rights and Democratic Teachings

Publications: The Soochow Journal of Political Science

Chinese Culture University – Department & Graduate Institute of Political Science:
(<http://politics.pccu.edu.tw/files/11-1102-4026.php?Lang=zh-tw>)

Chinese Culture University is one of the few private universities in our survey and was founded in 1962 by Prof. Chang Chi-Yun in 1962, while the department of political science was formed 2 years later. To date, more than 2000 graduates have gone through

the curriculum in this department, which employs 19 full time and associate professors. The graduates of the program typically move on to careers as public opinion representatives, congressional assistants, research assistants, civil servants, teachers, public relations firms, journalists, etc. The strength of this department seems to be in the extensive study program related to China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, particularly in Chinese language.

Relevant Courses: Political theory of international relations, Mathematical and Political Studies, The constitutional structure of modern China, International Politics, International Regional Political Studies, New Century Japanese Politics, Political development, The Relationship between Great Powers and China 's Political and Economic Research, Constitutionalism, Cultural Policy and Politics, Research on Monarchy System in Ancient China, Cross-Strait Relationship Studies, Immigration and national security, Cross-Strait Relationship Studies, Mainland China Social Studies, Study on Hong Kong Political System, Theory and Practice of Taiwan Development Experience, ROC Constitution and Government, National Development Theory and Practice, Globalization and Emerging Social Movements, Gender and policy, China's constitutional structure, Research Design and Essay Writing, Cross-Strait Relationship Studies, Social Science Methodology, Democracy theory.

National Chung Cheng University – Department & Graduate Institute of Political Science

(<http://polsci.ccu.edu.tw/2009/english/introduction.php>)

Chung Cheng University is unique to the others in our survey as it was not in the group of original institutions that migrated from Mainland China after the split. In fact, Chung Cheng was the first university to be established in Chiayi after the Taiwanese economic boom in the 1980's. The initiative was led by the Legislative Yuan in 1986 after the death of Chiang Kai-shek and the political science department was later founded initially as a

master degree program exclusively in 1993, with the with the undergrad and PhD programs following in 1998 and 2002 respectively. The strength of Chung Cheng's department is their focus on Asia and China studies. Much of their program's attention is related to Taiwan and Mainland politics, especially on the comparative politics track. The program supports 13 full time professors and more than 100 new student applicants each year.

Relevant Courses: Political Science, Government and Constitution, Political Science Classics, Training in Political Life, Western Political Philosophy, Comparative Politics, Political Methodology, Politics and Law, Non Governmental Organizations, Political Theories of Justice, Globalization, German Political Science, Social Justice in Asia, Asia Regionalism

National Cheng Kung University – Department of Political Science:

(<http://www.polsci.ncku.edu.tw/en/about.htm>)

NCKU is also unique in that it originated from Taiwan during Japanese rule in 1931 with its original name of Tainan Technical College. It was later seized by the ROC government in 1945 and upgraded in subsequent years to a full university. The political science department was founded along with the college of social sciences in 1997, so the program is the newest in our list. NCKU is also the only dedicated political science program in southern Taiwan. The program houses 14 full time and associate professors. The strength of Cheng Kung university is in the extensive study dedicated to theory in both Western and Chinese thought.

Relevant Courses: Introduction to Political Science, The ROC Constitutions & Government, Introduction to Political Philosophy, Comparative Politics & Government, Applied Statistics, Methodology of Political Science, Political Economy, Cross Taiwan Strait Relations The Legislative Process & Politics, Political Sociology

Citizen Politics & Civil Society, History of Western Political Thought, Gender Politics, Political Development, Contemporary Political Ideologies, Political Parties & Election, Quantitative Analysis in Social Science, History of Chinese Political Thought, Special Topics in Political Theory, Government and Politics in Mainland China, Judicial Politics, American Government and Politics, Japanese Government and Politics, Local Government and Politics in Taiwan, Internet Politics and Society, Government and Politics in Europe, Government and Politics in Southeast Asia, Special Topics in Comparative Politics, Comparative Constitution, Seminar on the Government and Politics of Post-communist countries.

Tunghai University – Department of Political Science:

(http://politics.thu.edu.tw/intro/super_pages.php?ID=intro1)

Tunghai has its roots in the earliest Christian schools in China beginning in 1865 when the protestant church set up St. John's University in the Mainland. In 1949 the schools were forced to close with a later initiative which intended to set up a Christian school in Taizhong. The school was established in 1955, when then, vice president Nixon attended the groundbreaking ceremony. Later, the political science department was established under the college of arts in 1977 and later reorganized to merge with the college of Law in 1993. The department has a total of 21 full time and part time/emeritus professors. The 3 levels of the program have 3 different tracts, political theory, international relations and local politics. Taitung's program allows for an open range of study while providing a basis of theory and knowledge, with specialization on local politics in Taiwan.

Related Courses: Research Methods in Political Science, Seminar on Local Government and Politics, Seminar on Local Political Ecology, Seminar on Local Autonomy and Community Development, Seminar on Local Governance, Research Methods in Political Science, Political Economy, Comparative Politics, Constitutional Democracy, Chinese Political Thought

National Research Institution: Academia Sinica:

(<https://www.sinica.edu.tw/en/articles/12>; <http://www.ipsas.sinica.edu.tw/index.php>)

Academia Sinica is the most comprehensive and well-supported academic institution in Taiwan. Like the some of the universities in our survey above, Academia Sinica was originally founded in Mainland China and was re-established in Taiwan after the Chinese Civil War in 1949. The institute is government funded and is actually lead by the President of Taiwan, as a figurehead, with an appointed president for operation.

Research objectives are divided into four major divisions, Administration, Mathematics and Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Humanities and Social Sciences. These 4 major divisions are further partitioned into a total of 42 institutes and administrative sections. The Institute of Political Science falls under the Humanities and Social Science Division and itself boasts 7 academic consultants, 17 research fellows, 4 visiting scholars, and a number of research assistants. Their research focus is distributed across five conceptual research groups.

Challenges:

Despite Taiwanese relative success in development and education in Asia, we are still behind Japan, Korea and now, China in top universities. Social Science Studies in general and political science in particular in Taiwan has faced obstacles and challenges. Political Science as a discipline in Taiwan will have to adapt to confront the issues of competition, enrollment decline and academic prestige. The following are some of the most pressing issues currently facing Taiwanese political scientists;

1. *Demographic Shift:* A shrinking population and low birth rate is leading to university mergers and even closure. Political Science departments have likewise not remained unaffected by the shift in demographics. This is causing schools to adapt and cut programs, which creates a greater competition for new students. The table below shows the slow decline since 2012 in student enrollment.

| 4. Universities, Colleges & Junior Colleges | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|--------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | Unit : School; %; Person; NT\$1,000 |
| School Year | No. of Schools | No. of Graduate Schools | | No. of Full-time Teachers | | | | | | | No. of Students | Educational Expenditure |
| | | Ph. D. Program | M. A. Program | Total | Prof. | Associate Prof. | Assistant Prof. | In-Structor | Others | Assistant | Total | NT\$1,000 |
| 00' | 150 | 450 | 1,397 | 43,391 | 6,559 | 10,935 | 3,992 | 16,796 | 1,920 | 3,189 | 1,092,102 | 177,668,224 |
| 01' | 154 | 498 | 1,649 | 44,769 | 6,974 | 11,045 | 5,053 | 16,754 | 1,996 | 2,947 | 1,187,225 | 178,411,266 |
| 02' | 154 | 536 | 1,880 | 46,042 | 7,307 | 11,233 | 6,168 | 16,470 | 2,123 | 2,741 | 1,240,292 | 194,645,435 |
| 03' | 158 | 588 | 2,185 | 47,472 | 7,702 | 11,649 | 7,504 | 15,639 | 2,108 | 2,670 | 1,270,194 | 203,849,293 |
| 04' | 159 | 626 | 2,416 | 48,649 | 8,122 | 12,113 | 8,771 | 15,044 | 2,126 | 2,473 | 1,285,867 | 210,569,732 |
| 05' | 162 | 659 | 2,548 | 49,601 | 8,497 | 12,600 | 9,982 | 14,059 | 2,179 | 2,284 | 1,296,558 | 221,580,703 |
| 06' | 163 | 706 | 2,870 | 50,388 | 8,972 | 13,025 | 10,954 | 13,324 | 1,980 | 2,133 | 1,313,993 | 228,263,974 |
| 07' | 164 | 736 | 3,068 | 51,128 | 9,350 | 13,451 | 12,038 | 12,396 | 1,906 | 1,987 | 1,326,029 | 238,539,799 |
| 08' | 162 | 769 | 3,232 | 51,501 | 9,657 | 13,782 | 12,875 | 11,390 | 1,906 | 1,891 | 1,337,455 | 225,944,084 |
| 09' | 164 | 794 | 3,303 | 50,658 | 9,958 | 14,199 | 13,572 | 10,367 | 2,029 | 533 | 1,336,659 | 226,716,196 |
| 10' | 163 | 801 | 3,302 | 50,684 | 10,275 | 14,402 | 14,000 | 9,374 | 2,162 | 471 | 1,343,603 | 225,750,552 |
| 11' | 163 | 809 | 3,264 | 50,332 | 10,586 | 14,656 | 14,091 | 8,347 | 2,249 | 403 | 1,352,084 | 237,686,231 |
| 12' | 162 | 822 | 3,289 | 50,158 | 10,907 | 14,910 | 13,960 | 7,621 | 2,404 | 356 | 1,355,290 | 246,915,912 |
| 13' | 161 | 839 | 3,312 | 50,024 | 11,259 | 15,099 | 13,578 | 6,771 | 2,985 | 332 | 1,345,973 | 241,660,011 |
| 14' | 159 | 851 | 3,334 | 49,357 | 11,776 | 15,078 | 13,297 | 6,000 | 2,886 | 320 | 1,339,849 | 243,117,659 |
| 15' | 158 | 858 | 3,378 | 48,696 | 12,116 | 14,993 | 12,900 | 5,352 | 3,046 | 289 | 1,332,445 | 245,503,415 |
| 16' | 158 | 880 | 3,426 | 48,096 | 12,222 | 15,007 | 11,909 | 4,828 | 3,882 | 248 | 1,309,441 | ... |

Source: <http://english.moe.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=14504&CtNode=11430&mp=1>

2. *Professional Opportunity*: Graduates are having trouble finding high paying positions in Taiwan as they are facing fierce competition after graduation due to a larger pool of talented and educated academics in the labor force. Students with minimized career prospects will begin to switch to more practical and professional orientations and away from the humanities.

3. *Area Expertise*: A stress on budget and shift in attitudes in Taiwan has caused many students to forego opportunities to study abroad. If Taiwanese political science departments are to remain relevant, they must not only pair with foreign intuitions and seek opportunities for exchange but also will need to fill positions with talented foreign experts who can take the place of what might have otherwise been a trained, Taiwanese, area expert returning home with a deeper understanding of international politics. As foreign experts have been difficult to attract in Taiwan, robust area studies programs have been sparse in Taiwanese Political Science Departments, including in such areas as; Latin America, Europe, South East Asia, even Japan and Korea, let alone Africa and the Middle East. This lack of area expert knowledge and

overemphasis on Taiwan studies has hindered Taiwan's global prominence as a premier location for the pursuit of Political Science study. The below chart indicates the number of courses offered in non-Taiwan/China area studies for the Fall 2017 Semester.

| University | China TW/ China | N. America | Latin America | Europe | East Asia | SE Asia | Africa | Middle East |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|--------|--------------|---------|--------|----------------|
| Nat. Taiwan Univ. | 11 | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - |
| Nat. Chengchi Univ. | 8 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - |
| Soochow Univ. | 7 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Chinese Culture Univ. | 9 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Nat. Chung Cheng Univ. | 4 | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - |
| Nat. Cheng Kung Univ. | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| Tunghai Univ. | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

4. *Narrow Conceptual Focus:* Finally, Taiwan has traditionally been exclusively focused on SSCI English publications and has failed to make a reasonable effort to publish in other arenas. Additionally political science departments have been traditionally quantitative in approach, with a lack of experts on a growing qualitative paradigm. Below is a table showing the Taiwanese ranking in SSCI publication rate.

Efforts for Growth/Improvement:

These dedicated Political Science departments have had to adjust to a decline in student population, an overemphasis on Chinese/Taiwan studies, and a lack of foreign experts to bring relevant regional courses to students in Taiwan. However, the Ministry of Education and the institutions themselves have undertaken several projects to manage the inadequacies facing each program. Listed below are just a few of the efforts currently underway;

1. Universities are forming partnerships with international programs for higher education like through the Colombo Plan in Australia, which, in 2018 will send 140 students to Taiwan to undertake studies for short term and semester exchanges programs, including in Political Science.
2. The Ministry of Education in support in higher education has made a series of mission objectives for 2018. The third, quoted here, is meant to advance career connectivity and recruitment for graduates in all areas, which could help to alleviate some of the issues concerning students regarding employment opportunities after graduation. “3. Promote links between industry, academia, and research in our higher education sector; recruit scholars locally and internationally; encourage universities to develop distinguishing features, and enhance learning effectiveness and the quality of the teaching and education provided; maintain a balance in regional development; assist universities and colleges to transform, merge, or close; and vigorously implement technological and vocational education policies and programs.”
3. Study abroad programs and foreigners studying in Taiwan have also helped to alleviate some of the enrollment obstacles currently faced by Taiwanese higher education institutions. The Taiwanese Ministry of Education, Taiwanese City Governments and even individual universities have all made outreach and student recruitment a priority in recent years. Taiwan has it in her sights to become a regional hub for education in Asia, through comprehensive exchange programs, overseas recruitment missions, and even a robust scholarship system exclusively for foreign students; like the Huayu (Chinese language) and Taiwan Scholarship programs. Below is a brief look at the foreign student population in Taiwan since 2007.
4. The Ministry of Interior of Taiwan is making it easier for foreign experts to live and work in Taiwan. One such effort was a revision to the requirements related to applying for Taiwanese citizenship. The new stipulation allows for foreign experts to retain their native passport when attempting to permanently gain citizenship in Taiwan. A previous rule would have required such applicants to provide proof of

forfeit of their previous citizenship before awarding their new one. The current president, Tsai Ying-wen has also made it easier for foreigners in academic programs to pursue related work opportunities, all of which could invigorate Political Science expertise in Taiwan's universities.

5. Southbound Talent Development Program: The New Southbound Policy is designed to develop labor and talent linkages between Taiwan and a designated group of 18 countries, including India, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand. The program also supports study programs as well to encourage an increase in the 30,000 students from Southbound countries already studying in Taiwan. The program will focus on several areas of exchange (Resource Sharing, Talent Cultivation and Regional Links), which could mean a new pool of talent as well as increased enrollment for Taiwan's Political Science departments.

Conclusion:

It is very clear that the development of studying political science is embedded in the broader picture of higher education in Taiwan and has achieved rather little in the past few decades. Against this background, Taiwan's political scientists have a very limited capacity for developing necessary courses when confronting the challenges in the digital era. The courses have still focused on traditional requirements. The research methods of behaviorism, formal modeling, and rational choice only occupy a small portion of the curriculum design. Due to the small number of university which have department of political science, it is not easy for the faculty members to find someone who share similar interests in the same department. In addition, it is not easy to form cooperation among political scientists beyond home institutions with such a small community.

The field of electoral studies is relatively developed and there are quite a few scholars working on this topic. Several young scholars also collaborate with the faculties in the economics department, medical school, and statistical departments and try to explore more different issues. Academic institutions need to reform the curriculum structures and recruit scholars who could bring in pioneer studies and research methods.

Nonetheless, the requirement for advanced mathematics ability has prevented students from further studying these subjects. That is to say, with fewer and fewer student pursuing doctoral degrees in political science abroad, the issue of the shortage of PhDs has become urgent. Without having more researchers equipping with advanced skills, the topics like big data and digitalization would be very difficult to take root and then attract more students to learn.