

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Public and International Affairs
with effect from Semester A 2024/25**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: International Relations of Northeast Asia

Course Code: PIA5045

Course Duration: One Semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) AIS5045 International Relations of Northeast Asia

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

With four great powers – China, Japan, Russia and the extraterritorial United States, four nuclear weapons states, three of the world’s largest economies and the largest concentration of divided polities, Northeast Asia is one of the most dynamic yet volatile regions in world politics. During the Cold War, Northeast Asia was the site of intense competition and conflict between the superpowers and among the states in the region. In the post-Cold War era, the region has been an engine of the global economy while undergoing a major shift in the balance of power whose trajectory and outcome remain uncertain. This course examines a broad range of issues in Northeast Asia from the perspectives of competing paradigms international relations (IR) theory. It explores the advantages and limits of these paradigms in seeking a greater understanding of the region.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Explain the history of Northeast Asia, both individually at the level of the main actors and collectively as a subregion.	10	✓		
2.	Critically analyse political, economic and social issues affecting the main actors in Northeast Asia and their interactions.	30	✓	✓	
3.	Demonstrate mastery of mainstream and critical theories of international relations.	30	✓		
4.	Evaluate the relevance and limits of these competing theories to the Northeast Asian cases.	30	✓	✓	
		100%			

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.

3. Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

(LTAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

LTA	Brief Description	CILO No.						Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4			
1	Lectures: students will gain an overview of concepts, theories and case studies on the international relations of Northeast Asia	✓	✓	✓	✓			
2	Class debate and discussions: students will discuss, clarify and debate key arguments and concepts through civil interaction with others, while listening to, developing and appreciating alternative views	✓	✓	✓	✓			
3	Reflective writing: students are required to carry out reflective writing on what they have learnt in class to consolidate and deepen their knowledge.		✓	✓	✓			
4	Readings: Students will develop an in-depth understanding of the concepts and arguments discussed through reading scholarly books and articles.	✓	✓	✓	✓			

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.						Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4				
Continuous Assessment: 100%								
Attendance and Discussion	✓	✓	✓	✓			20	
Class Presentations and Group Work (including simulation of diplomatic issue in Northeast Asia)	✓	✓	✓	✓			25	
Research Paper	✓	✓	✓	✓			40	
In-class quizzes	✓	✓	✓	✓			15	
Examination: 0% (duration: N/A, if applicable)								
							100%	

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Attendance and Discussion	Active and informed participation in class/class etiquette	Excellent demonstration of active and informed participation in class/ excellent class etiquette	Good demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette	Fair demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette	Marginal demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette	Poor demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette
2. Class Presentations and Group Work	Presence and communication (50%)	Excellent presence and communication	Good presence and communication	Fair presence and communication	Marginal presence and communication	Poor presence and communication
	Organisation and quality of material presented (50%)			Fair organisation and quality of material	Marginal organisation and quality of material	Poor organisation and quality of material
3. Research Paper	Quality of writing (grammar, structure and coherence) (25%)	Excellent organisation and quality of material	Good organisation and quality of material	Fair quality of writing	Marginal quality of writing	Poor quality of writing
	Application and demonstrated comprehension of theories and approaches covered in the course (15%)	Excellent quality of writing	Good quality of writing			
	Demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials in relation to argument (25%)	Excellent demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials	Good demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials	Fair demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials	Marginal demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials	Poor demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials
	Quality and originality of argument (35%)	Excellent and original argument	Good and reasonably original argument	Fair articulation of argument/a dequate attempt at making an original argument	Marginal demonstration of argument and or originality in argument	Poor deployment of or non-existent argument

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
4. In-class quizzes	(1) application of relevant examples and materials; (2) evidence of critical thinking and creativity	Excellent knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; Strong evidence of critical thinking and creativity	Good knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; Some evidence of critical thinking and creativity	Fair knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; fair evidence of critical thinking and creativity	Limited knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; Little evidence of critical thinking and creativity	Inadequate knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; No evidence of critical thinking and creativity

Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
1. Attendance and Discussion	Active and informed participation in class/class etiquette	Excellent demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette	Good demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette	Marginal demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette	Poor demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette
2. Class Presentations and Group Work	Presence and communication (50%) Organisation and quality of material presented (50%)	Excellent presence and communication	Good presence and communication	Marginal presence and communication	Poor presence and communication
3. Research Paper	Quality of writing (grammar, structure and coherence) (25%) Quality of writing (grammar, structure and coherence) (25%) Demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials in relation to argument (25%) Quality and originality of argument (25%)	Excellent quality of writing Excellent quality of writing Excellent demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials Excellent and original argument	Good quality of writing Good quality of writing Good demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials Good and original argument	Marginal quality of writing Marginal quality of writing Marginal demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials Marginal and original argument	Poor quality of writing Poor quality of writing Poor demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials Poor and original argument
4. In-class quizzes	(1) application of relevant examples and materials; (2) evidence of critical thinking and creativity	Excellent knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; Strong evidence of critical thinking and creativity	Good knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; Some evidence of critical thinking and creativity	Limited knowledge of relevant theories and concepts ; Little evidence of critical thinking and creativity	Inadequate knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; No evidence of critical thinking and creativity

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Constructivism, liberalism, realism, states, non-state actors, Northeast Asia, conflict, cooperation, territorial disputes, history issue, beautiful world, alliances, rising powers, regionalism, nationalism, China, Japan, United States, Korean Peninsula, Taiwan.

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

1.	Calder, Kent and Min Ye eds., <i>The Making of Northeast Asia</i> , Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 2010.
2.	Kim, Samuel S. ed., <i>The International Relations of Northeast Asia</i> , Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2004.
3.	Pekkanen, Saadia et al, eds., <i>The Oxford Handbook of the International Relations of Asia</i> , Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.
4.	Suh, J.J., Peter J. Katzenstein and Allen Carlson eds., <i>Rethinking Security in East Asia: Identity, Power and Efficiency</i> , Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2004.

2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

1.	Berger, Thomas U., 2012. <i>War, Guilt, and World Politics after World War II</i> , Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2.	Kang, David C., <i>China Rising: Peace, Power and Order in East Asia</i> , New York: Columbia University Press, 2007.
3.	Sun, Jing, <i>Japan and China as Charm Rivals: Soft Power in Regional Diplomacy</i> , Michigan: University of Michigan Press, 2012.
4.	Timmerman, Martina and Jitsuo Tsuchiyama eds., <i>Institutionalizing Northeast Asia: Regional Steps towards Global Governance</i> , Tokyo: United Nations University Press, 2008.