

PIA3031: POLITICAL DYNAMICS IN ASIA

Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Political Dynamics in Asia

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

3031

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

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

AIS3031 Political Dynamics in Asia

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to strengthen students' theoretical understanding and empirical knowledge of Asian politics, focusing specifically on East and Southeast Asia. Lectures cover a wide range of key thematic issues such as nation-building,

state formation, authoritarianism, democracy, political behavior, political institutions, political culture, identity politics, economic development, and welfare states. The focus of the course is twofold. First, these themes will be analyzed with a strong comparative focus that allows students to contextualize and understand Asian experiences in the light of broader theoretical and disciplinary debates. Second, by exposure to illustrations featuring various Asian cases and tutorial assignments, students will widen their knowledge of the history, society and politics of specific Asian countries. The knowledge acquired in this course will help students conceptualize and critically evaluate contemporary political dynamics in Hong Kong, Asia and elsewhere.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Examine how the various thematic issues covered in the course are conceptualized and discussed in scholarly research	15	x	x	
2	Assess and critique various theoretical and methodological approaches to study the thematic issues covered in the course	30	x	x	
3	Evaluate the role of country-specific history, social development and institutions in shaping contemporary political outcomes	25	x	x	x
4	Analyze political development in Asia from a comparative perspective and locate Asian experiences within the global context	30		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	Lectures	Students will learn concepts and theories, and illustrate them with examples from East and Southeast Asia	1, 2, 3
2	Class participation	Students will benefit from attending all lectures and tutorials, preparing for class by reading required materials and participating actively to class discussion when possible	1, 2, 3

3	In-class quiz	In the first part of the course, quizzes will allow students to give early feedback on their knowledge of the material covered	2, 3	
4	Mid-term exam	Students will write an essay to answer a series of open-ended questions. The questions will give students an opportunity to ascertain their knowledge of the material covered in lectures and their ability to apply that knowledge to a specific Asian case	1, 2, 3, 4	
5	Final quiz	Students will answer a series of multiple-choice questions to demonstrate their knowledge of the material covered in lectures	2, 3	
6	Tutorial presentations (optional)	For an opportunity to improve their performance, students may work individually or in pairs to deliver a short class presentation on a topic and country of their choice	2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Class participation	1, 2, 3, 4	20	
2	In-class quiz	2, 3	15	
3	Mid-term exam	1, 2, 3, 4	45	
4	Final quiz	2, 3	20	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Class participation

Criterion

Students are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials, and to participate actively, especially in tutorials.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Demonstrates excellent level of engagement with lecture and reading material. Participation in tutorials is above average.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Demonstrates good level of engagement with lecture and reading material. Participation in tutorials is about average.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Demonstrates satisfactory level of engagement with lecture and reading material. Participation in tutorials is below average.

Marginal (D)

Demonstrates poor level of engagement with lecture and reading material. Participation in tutorials is well below average.

Failure (F)

Indicates that through poor learning or lack of effort, the student has failed to maintain even minimal attendance and participation levels.

Assessment Task

Quizzes (in-class and final quiz)

Criterion

Students need to possess solid factual knowledge of Asian political history and understand concepts introduced in class

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent knowledge of the materials covered in the course.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good knowledge of the materials covered in the course.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Limited knowledge of the materials covered in the course.

Marginal (D)

Substantially flawed knowledge of the materials covered in the course.

Failure (F)

Insufficient knowledge of the materials covered in the course.

Assessment Task

Mid-term exam

Criterion

Need to master the topics covered in class, and a capacity to critically reflect on them.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent knowledge of the topics covered in class and capacity to critically integrate lecture and reading material into the essay question.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good knowledge of the topics covered in class and capacity to critically integrate lecture and reading material into the essay question.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Limited knowledge of the topics covered in class and capacity to critically integrate lecture and reading material into the essay question.

Marginal (D)

Poor knowledge of the topics covered in class and capacity to critically integrate lecture and reading material into the essay question.

Failure (F)

Little or no knowledge of the topics covered in class and capacity to critically reflect on them.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Asian politics, nation-building, state formation, authoritarianism, democracy, political behavior, political parties, political institutions, political culture, identity politics, economic development.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Cheng, T.J. and Chu, Y.H. eds., 2017. Routledge Handbook of Democratization in East Asia. Routledge.
2	Robison, R. ed., 2012. Routledge handbook of Southeast Asian politics. Routledge.
3	Case, W. ed., 2015. Routledge handbook of Southeast Asian democratization. Routledge.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Bell, Daniel A, 2006. Beyond Liberal Democracy: Political Thinking for an East Asian Context. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
2	Case, W., 2006. Manipulative Skills: How do Rulers Control the Electoral Arena?. In: A. Schedler, ed., Electoral Authoritarianism: The Dynamics of Unfree Competition. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, pp. 95-112.
3	Chu, Yun-han, Larry Diamond, Andrew J. Nathan, and Doh Chull Shin, 2008. How East Asians View Democracy. New York: Columbia University Press.
4	Dalton, R. J., Chu, Y. H. & Shin, D. C., 2007. Introduction: Parties, Party Choice, and Partisanship in East Asia. Journal of East Asian Studies, Volume 7, pp. 177-84.
5	Fung, Edmund S.K. and Steven Drakeley, 2014. Democracy in Eastern Asia: Issues, Problems and Challenges in a Region of Diversity. Oxon and New York: Routledge.
6	Chu, Yin-wah and Wong, Siu-lun, 2010. East Asia's New Democracies: Deepening, Reversal, Non-liberal Alternatives. London: Routledge.
7	Diamond, Larry Jay, Plattner, Marc F., and Chu, Yun-han, 2013. Democracy in East Asia: A New Century. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press.
8	Reilly, B., 2007. Electoral Systems and Party Systems in East Asia. Journal of East Asian Studies, Volume 7, pp. 185-202.
9	Izuhara, M. ed., 2013. Handbook on East Asian social policy. Edward Elgar Publishing.
10	Beeson, M. and Stubbs, R. eds., 2012. Routledge handbook of Asian regionalism. Routledge.
11	Carroll, T., Hameiri, S. and Jones, L. eds., 2020. The Political Economy of Southeast Asia: Politics and Uneven Development Under Hyperglobalisation. Springer Nature.

12	Croissant, A. and Lorenz, P., 2018. Comparative Politics of Southeast Asia. An Introduction into Government and Politics. Cham: Springer.
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