

PIA3111: DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIZATION

Effective Term

Semester B 2022/23

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Democracy and Democratization

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

3111

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

SA3111 Democracy and Democratization / POL3111 Democracy and Democratization

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to examine the basic features of democracy, its definitions, the causes of its emergence, as well as its strengths and problems. The course also examines the waves of democratization in the modern world, with particular emphasis on the global spread of democracies in the late 20th century and beyond, and applies the concepts of democracy and democratization to controversial questions like whether democracy is a universal value, whether it can promote human rights, whether there is an inherent conflict between the Confucian ethos and democracy, whether democracy leads to welfare-state, and whether democracy is favourable or unfavourable to economic development. The course attempts to assess some major challenges facing democracy, such as the China model and globalized capitalism. Students are required to critically evaluate the democratization process in some of the East Asian societies: Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea, China, Hong Kong and so on.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Detect and identify the basic features of democracy and democratization.		x	x	
2	Examine and recognize the major challenges for developing democracy in the world.		x	x	
3	Assess and consider controversial questions concerning democracy and democratization.		x	x	
4	Apply the concepts to evaluate the democratic development of some East Asia societies		x	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.

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

TLAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture	Explain concepts, theories, empirical data and raise questions for discussions.	1, 2, 3, 4	2 hrs/13 weeks
2	Class discussion and in-class short exercises	Class discussion on some critical issues related to democracy and democratization in some actual states with short in-class short exercises.	1, 2, 3, 4	1 hr/ 13 weeks

3	Essay writing	Each student to compose a term paper of no more than 3,000 words .	1, 2, 3, 4	
4	Reading of reference materials and/or participation in online discussion	Read three or more assigned papers, book chapters, current affair commentaries and the relevant lecture notes per week and participate in Canvas' online discussion with fellow students and/or instructors on currents issues related to democracy and democratization	1, 2, 3, 4	6hrs/week

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Class discussion & short in-class exercise	1, 2, 3, 4	15
2	Individual paper	1, 2, 3, 4	35

Continuous Assessment (%)

50

Examination (%)

50

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Additional Information for ATs

Note:

If a course has both coursework and examination components, students are required to pass BOTH the coursework assessment AND the examination before they can be awarded an overall passing grade of the course.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Individual paper

Criterion

Ability to critically explain and evaluate the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and to apply knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond with students' original ideas.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and outstanding application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Strong ability to identify key challenges. Excellent research and writing skills with evidence to develop critical and independent analysis. Highly innovative ideas and critical attitude in analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and sound application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Good ability to identify key challenges. Competent research and writing skills with evidence to develop a number of critical and independent analysis. Innovative ideas and critical attitude in analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Satisfactory understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and appropriate application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Average ability to identify key challenges. Adequate research and writing skills with some evidence to develop critical and independent analysis. A few innovative ideas when analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.

Marginal (D)

Limited understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and weak application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Below average ability to identify key challenges. Weak research and writing skills with some evidence to develop critical and independent analysis. Lack of innovative ideas when analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.

Failure (F)

Poor understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and weak application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Poor ability to identify key challenges. Poor research and writing skills with some evidence to develop critical and independent analysis. No innovative ideas when analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.

Assessment Task

2. Class discussion & short exercises

Criterion

Ability to engage in class discussion and demonstrated proofs in applying relevant concepts and ideas to introduce, discuss and evaluate critical issues related to democracy and democratization in a systematic and precise manner, both orally and in written form.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High standard of engagement in class discussion. Outstanding application of the related concepts and ideas to critical issues related to democracy and democratization. Excellent discussion, writing and presentation skills with innovative and original ideas.

Good (B+, B, B-)

High standard of engagement in class discussion. Good application of the related concepts and ideas to critical issues related to democracy and democratization. Very competent discussion, writing and presentation skills with some innovative and original ideas.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Satisfactory standard of engagement in class discussion. Competent application of the related concepts and ideas to critical issues related to democracy and democratization. Competent discussion, writing and presentation skills with some innovative and original ideas.

Marginal (D)

Below average standard of engagement in class discussion. Limited application of the related concepts and ideas to critical issues related to democracy and democratization. Weak discussion, writing and presentation skills with few innovative and original ideas.

Failure (F)

Poor standard of engagement in class discussion. Very weak application of the related concepts and ideas to critical issues related to democracy and democratization. Poor discussion, writing and presentation skills with inappropriate or irrelevant ideas.

Assessment Task

3. Examination

Criterion

Ability to critically explain and evaluate the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and to apply knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond with students' original ideas.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and outstanding application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Strong ability to identify key challenges. Excellent research and writing skills with evidence to develop critical and independent analysis. Highly innovative ideas and critical attitude in analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and sound application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Good ability to identify key challenges. Competent research and writing skills with evidence to develop a number of critical and independent analysis. Innovative ideas and critical attitude in analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Satisfactory understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and appropriate application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Average ability to identify key challenges. Adequate research and writing skills with some evidence to develop critical and independent analysis. A few innovative ideas when analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.

Marginal (D)

Limited understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and weak application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Below average ability to identify key challenges. Weak research and writing skills with some evidence to develop critical and independent analysis. Lack of innovative ideas when analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.

Failure (F)

Poor understanding of the concepts, features and practices of democracy and democratization in the modern world and weak application of knowledge to assess the current debates and critical issues facing democratic development in East Asia and beyond. Poor ability to identify key challenges. Poor research and writing skills with some evidence to develop critical and independent analysis. No innovative ideas when analyzing issues related to democracy and democratization.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Democracy; democratization; authoritarianism and totalitarianism; human rights; Asian values and the Confucian ethos; socio-economic development; modernization theory; elite-choice theory; state and civil society; social cleavages; political culture; political legitimacy; critics of democracy; conditions for democratic development; China model, globalization, waves of democratization; Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia, mainland China.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Robert A. Dahl, <i>Democracy and Its Critics</i> , New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 1989
2	Samuel P. Huntington, <i>The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century</i> , Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991
3	Larry Diamond, <i>The Spirit of Democracy: The Struggle to Build Free Societies Throughout the World</i> , New York: Times Books, 2008
4	Larry Diamond, Marc F. Plattner & Yun-han Chu, eds., <i>Democracy in East Asia: A New Century</i> , Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 2013
5	David Runciman, <i>How Democracy Ends</i> , London: Profile Books, 2018

Additional Readings

Title	
1	John Dunn, <i>Setting the People Free: The Story of Democracy</i> , London: Atlantic Books, 2005
2	Fareed Zakaria, <i>The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad</i> , New York & London: W. W. Norton & Co., 2003
3	Diamond & Plattner (eds.), <i>The Global Divergence of Democracies</i> , Baltimore & London: The John Hopkins University Press, 2001
4	Shapiro & Hacker-Cordon (eds.), <i>Democracy's Edges</i> , Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999
5	Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner, eds., <i>Liberation Technology: Social Media and the Struggle for Democracy</i> , Baltimore: the John Hopkins University Press, 2012
6	Joseph Y. S. Cheng, ed., <i>New Trends of Political Participation in Hong Kong</i> , Hong Kong: City University of Hong Kong Press, 2014
7	Lucian W. Pye, <i>Asian Power and Politics: The Cultural Dimensions of Authority</i> , Cambridge, Massachusetts & London, England: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1985