

PIA5045: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF NORTHEAST ASIA

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

International Relations of Northeast Asia

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

5045

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

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

AIS5045 International Relations of Northeast Asia

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

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.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Explain the history of Northeast Asia, both individually at the level of the main actors and collectively as a subregion.	10	x		
2	Critically analyse political, economic and social issues affecting the main actors in Northeast Asia and their interactions.	30	x	x	
3	Demonstrate mastery of mainstream and critical theories of international relations.	30	x		
4	Evaluate the relevance and limits of these competing theories to the Northeast Asian cases.	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	1	Lectures: students will gain an overview of concepts, theories and case studies on the international relations of Northeast Asia	1, 2, 3, 4	

2	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	1, 2, 3, 4	
3	3	Reflective writing: students are required to carry out reflective writing on what they have learnt in class to consolidate and deepen their knowledge.	2, 3, 4	
4	4	Readings: Students will develop an in-depth understanding of the concepts and arguments discussed through reading scholarly books and articles.	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Attendance and Discussion	1, 2, 3, 4	20	Formative	Yes
2	Class Presentations and Group Work (including simulation of diplomatic issue in Northeast Asia)	1, 2, 3, 4	25	Summative	No
3	Research Paper	1, 2, 3, 4	40	Summative	No
4	In-class quizzes	1, 2, 3, 4	15	Summative	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Attendance and Discussion (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Active and informed participation in class/class etiquette

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent demonstration of active and informed participation in class/ excellent class etiquette

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette

Marginal

(D) Marginal demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette

Failure

(F) Poor demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette

Assessment Task

Class Presentations and Group Work (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Presence and communication (50%)

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent presence and communication

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good presence and communication

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair presence and communication

Marginal

(D) Marginal presence and communication

Failure

(F) Poor presence and communication

Assessment Task

Class Presentations and Group Work (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Organisation and quality of material presented (50%)

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair organisation and quality of material

Marginal

(D) Marginal organisation and quality of material

Failure

(F) Poor organisation and quality of material

Assessment Task

Research Paper (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Quality of writing (grammar, structure and coherence) (25%)

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent organisation and quality of material

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good organisation and quality of material

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair quality of writing

Marginal

(D) Marginal quality of writing

Failure

(F) Poor quality of writing

Assessment Task

Research Paper (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Application and demonstrated comprehension of theories and approaches covered in the course (15%)

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent quality of writing

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good quality of writing

Assessment Task

Research Paper (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials in relation to argument (25%)

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials

Marginal

(D) Marginal demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials

Failure

(F) Poor demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials

Assessment Task

Research Paper (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Quality and originality of argument (35%)

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent and original argument

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good and reasonably original argument

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair articulation of argument/a dequate attempt at making an original argument

Marginal

(D) Marginal demonstration of argument and or originality in argument

Failure

(F) Poor deployment of or non-existent argument

Assessment Task

In-class quizzes (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

(1) application of relevant examples and materials; (2) evidence of critical thinking and creativity

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; Strong evidence of critical thinking and creativity

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; Some evidence of critical thinking and creativity

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; fair evidence of critical thinking and creativity

Marginal

(D) Limited knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; Little evidence of critical thinking and creativity

Failure

(F) Inadequate knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; No evidence of critical thinking and creativity

Assessment Task

Attendance and Discussion (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Active and informed participation in class/class etiquette

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent demonstration of active and informed participation in class/ excellent class etiquette

Good

(B+, B) Good demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Marginal demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette

Failure

(F) Poor demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette

Assessment Task

Class Presentations and Group Work (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Presence and communication (50%) Organisation and quality of material presented (50%)

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent presence and communication

Good

(B+, B) Good presence and communication

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Marginal presence and communication

Failure

(F) Poor presence and communication

Assessment Task

Research Paper (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

1. Quality of writing (grammar, structure and coherence) (25%)
2. Quality of writing (grammar, structure and coherence) (25%)
3. Demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials in relation to argument (25%)
4. Quality and originality of argument (25%)

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

1. Excellent quality of writing
2. Excellent quality of writing
3. Excellent demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials
4. Excellent and original argument

Good

(B+, B)

1. Good quality of writing
2. Good quality of writing
3. Good demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials
4. Good and original argument

Marginal

(B-, C+, C)

1. Marginal quality of writing
2. Marginal quality of writing
3. Marginal demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials
4. Marginal and original argument

Failure

(F)

1. Poor quality of writing
2. Poor quality of writing
3. Poor demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials
4. Poor and original argument

Assessment Task

In-class quizzes (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

- (1) application of relevant examples and materials;
- (2) evidence of critical thinking and creativity

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; Strong evidence of critical thinking and creativity

Good

(B+, B) Good knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; Some evidence of critical thinking and creativity

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Limited knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; Little evidence of critical thinking and creativity

Failure

(F) Inadequate knowledge of relevant theories and concepts; No evidence of critical thinking and creativity

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

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.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
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.

Additional Readings

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