

PIA5051: WOMEN AND POLITICS IN ASIA

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Women and Politics in Asia

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

5051

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

AIS5051 Women and Politics in Asia

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

Asian women are underrepresented in politics and governance despite notable gains exemplified by the rise of such prominent female leaders as Cory Aquino, Gloria Macapagal-arroyo, Aung San Suu Kyi, Megawati Soekarnoputri, and

most recently Park Guen-hae. There is a prevailing perception that Asian women - especially those highly educated or from powerful families - can do well politically or even better than their male counterparts. In contrast, there is little understanding of how women strive and succeed as political leaders in the region. This course is to familiarize students with a broad range of issues involving women and politics, such as women's political participation, the history of women's movements, political divisions among women, and what we mean when we refer to "women's issues."

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Understand the politics of gender and engage in sociological and feminist discourses about gender and women		x	x	x
2	Examine politics and political issues from a gender perspective		x	x	x
3	Understand how social hierarchies of race, gender, class, ethnicity and sexual orientation are interrelated		x	x	x
4	Discover and analyse social problems that we face in our everyday lives from the gender-centred perspectives		x	x	x
5	Demonstrate an ability to independently analyse problems concerning the politics of gender and gender in Asia's and global politics		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.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	1	Lectures, Seminars and discussions, Case Study and presentations, Documentaries and films, symposiums	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Online and offline discussions	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	20	-	Yes
2	Two short essays	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	20	-	No

3	Mid-term quiz	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30	-	No
4	Case study and presentation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Online and offline discussions (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Quality of conceptual thinking and informed participation in discussion

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High level of conceptual thinking and the ability to critique materials and form sophisticated arguments.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good ability to think conceptually and the ability to form plausible arguments.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Incomplete/marginal ability to analyse materials and the limited ability to present arguments.

Marginal

(D) Little comprehension of materials and the minimal ability to present arguments.

Failure

(F) Poor or no comprehension of materials and the incapability/unwillingness to present arguments

Assessment Task

Two short essays (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to defend an argument with sophisticated theoretical arguments and empirical evidence.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to defend an argument with sophisticated theoretical arguments and empirical evidence.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good ability to defend an argument with sophisticated theoretical arguments and empirical evidence.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate ability to defend an argument with sophisticated theoretical arguments and empirical evidence.

Marginal

(D) Limited ability to defend an argument with sophisticated theoretical arguments and empirical evidence.

Failure

(F) Inadequate ability to defend an argument with sophisticated theoretical arguments and empirical evidence.

Assessment Task

Mid-term quiz (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Brief test to prove that students have made their weekly readings.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent understanding of weekly readings

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good understanding of weekly readings

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate understanding of weekly readings

Marginal

(D) Limited understanding of weekly readings

Failure

(F) Inadequate understanding of weekly readings

Assessment Task

Case study and presentation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Group presentations on cases. Individual reflective comments on case studies.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent structure, content and delivery of the group presentations
Highly relevant and insightful reflective comments on case studies

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good structure, content and delivery of the group presentations
Good quality of reflective comments on case studies

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate structure, content and delivery of the group presentations
Adequate reflective comments on case studies

Marginal

(D) Poor structure, content and delivery of the group presentations
Few and/or marginally relevant reflective comments on case studies

Failure

(F) Inadequate structure, content and delivery of the group presentations
Inadequate reflective comments on case studies

Assessment Task

Online and offline discussions (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Quality of conceptual thinking and informed participation in discussion

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High level of conceptual thinking and the ability to critique materials and form sophisticated arguments.

Good

(B+, B) Good ability to think conceptually and the ability to form plausible arguments.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Incomplete/marginal ability to analyse materials and the limited ability to present arguments.

Failure

(F) Poor or no comprehension of materials and the incapability/unwillingness to present arguments

Assessment Task

Two short essays (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to defend an argument with sophisticated theoretical arguments and empirical evidence.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to defend an argument with sophisticated theoretical arguments and empirical evidence.

Good

(B+, B) Good ability to defend an argument with sophisticated theoretical arguments and empirical evidence.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Incomplete/marginal ability to defend an argument with sophisticated theoretical arguments and empirical evidence.

Failure

(F) Inadequate ability to defend an argument with sophisticated theoretical arguments and empirical evidence.

Assessment Task

Mid-term quiz (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Brief test to prove that students have made their weekly readings.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent understanding of weekly readings

Good

(B+, B) Good understanding of weekly readings

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Incomplete/marginal understanding of weekly readings

Failure

(F) Inadequate understanding of weekly readings

Assessment Task

Case study and presentation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Group presentations on cases. Individual reflective comments on case studies.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent structure, content and delivery of the group presentations
Highly relevant and insightful reflective comments on case studies

Good

(B+, B) Good structure, content and delivery of the group presentations
Good quality of reflective comments on case studies

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Incomplete/marginal structure, content and delivery of the group presentations Adequate reflective comments on case studies

Failure

(F) Inadequate structure, content and delivery of the group presentations
Inadequate reflective comments on case studies

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Women, gender, power, politics, governance, political office, elections, women' s movement, political advancement, political empowerment, intersectionality, culture, social mobility, comparative historical analysis, Asia

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Roces, Mina & Edwards, Louise, 2000, "Contesting gender narratives, 1970-2000," Mina Rocés & Louise Edwards (eds.), <i>Women in Asia: Tradition, modernity and globalization</i> , Ann Arbor: the University of Michigan Press, 1-15.
2	Stivens, Malia, 2000, "Becoming modern in Malaysia: women at the end of the twentieth century," Mina Rocés & Louise Edwards (eds.), <i>Women in Asia: Tradition, modernity and globalization</i> , Ann Arbor: the University of Michigan Press, 16-38.
3	Chan, Jasmine, 2000, "The status of women in a patriarchal state: the case of Singapore," Mina Rocés & Louise Edwards (eds.), <i>Women in Asia: Tradition, modernity and globalization</i> , Ann Arbor: the University of Michigan Press, 39-58.
4	Edwards, Louise, 2000, "Women in the People' s Republic of China: new challenges to the grand gender narrative," Mina Rocés & Louise Edwards (eds.), <i>Women in Asia: Tradition, modernity and globalization</i> , Ann Arbor: the University of Michigan Press, 59-84.
5	Robinson, Kathryn, 2000, "Indonesian women – from Orde Baru to Reformasi," Mina Rocés & Louise Edwards (eds.), <i>Women in Asia: Tradition, modernity and globalization</i> , Ann Arbor: the University of Michigan Press, 139-169.
6	Tipton, Elise K., 2000, "Being women in Japan 1970-2000," Mina Rocés & Louise Edwards (eds.), <i>Women in Asia: Tradition, modernity and globalization</i> , Ann Arbor: the University of Michigan Press, 208-228.
7	Chiang, Lan-hung Nora, 2000, "Women in Taiwan: linking economic prosperity and women' s progress," Mina Rocés & Louise Edwards (eds.), <i>Women in Asia: Tradition, modernity and globalization</i> , Ann Arbor: the University of Michigan Press, 229-246.

8	Limanonda, Bhassorn, 2000, "Exploring women's status in contemporary Thailand," Mina Roces & Louise Edwards (eds.), <i>Women in Asia: Tradition, modernity and globalization</i> , Ann Arbor: the University of Michigan Press, 247-264.
9	Ungar, Esta, 2000, "Re-gendering Vietnam: from militant to market socialism," Mina Roces & Louise Edwards (eds.), <i>Women in Asia: Tradition, modernity and globalization</i> , Ann Arbor: the University of Michigan Press, 291-317.
10	Ong, Aihwa, & Peletz, Michael G., (eds.), 1995, <i>Bewitching Women, Pious Men: Gender and Body Politics in Southeast Asia</i> , Berkeley & London: University of California Press.
11	Edwards, Louise & Roces, Mina, (eds.), 2000, <i>Women in Asia: Tradition, modernity and globalisation</i> , Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.
12	Bulbeck, Chilla, 2009, <i>Sex, Love and Feminism in the Asia Pacific: A cross-cultural study of young people's attitudes</i> , Abingdon & N.Y.: Routledge.
13	Burghoorn, Wil, Iwanaga, Kazuki, Milwertz, Cecilia, & Wang, Qi, (eds.), <i>Gender Politics in Asia: Women Manoeuvring within Dominant Gender Orders</i> , Copenhagen: NIAS Press.
14	Hudson, Chris, 2013, <i>Beyond the Singapore Girl: Discourses of Gender and Nation in Singapore</i> , Copenhagen: NIAS Press.
15	Gills, Dong-Sook S. & Piper, Nicola, (eds.), 2002, <i>Women and Work in Globalising Asia</i> , London & N.Y.: Routledge.
16	Broadbent, Kaye & Ford, Michele, (eds.), 2008, <i>Women and Labour Organizing in Asia: Diversity, autonomy and activism</i> , London & N.Y.: Routledge.
17	Siu, Helen F., (ed.), 2010, <i>Merchants' Daughters: Women, Commerce, and Regional Culture in South China</i> , Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
18	Blackburn, Susan, (ed.), 2001, <i>Love, sex and power: Women in Southeast Asia</i> , Clayton: Monash Asia Institute.
19	Parker, Lyn, (ed.), 2005, <i>The Agency of women in Asia</i> , Singapore: Marshall Cavendish.
20	Nurmila, Nina, 2009, <i>Women, Islam and Everyday Life: Renegotiating polygamy in Indonesia</i> , London & N.Y.: Routledge.
21	Milwertz, Cecilia, 2002, <i>Beijing Women Organizing for Change: A New Wave of the Chinese Women's Movement</i> , Copenhagen: NIAS Press.
22	Fleschenberg, Andrea, & Derichs, Claudia, (eds.), 2011, <i>Women and Politics in Asia: A Springboard for Democracy?</i> , Zürich: LIT.
23	Lilja, Mona, 2008, <i>Power, Resistance and Women Politicians in Cambodia: Discourses of Emancipation</i> , Copenhagen: NIAS Press.
24	Iwanaga, Kazuki, (ed.), 2008, <i>Women's Political Participation and Representation in Asia: Obstacles and Challenges</i> , Copenhagen: NIAS Press.
25	Rydstrøm, Helle, (ed.), 2010, <i>Gendered Inequalities in Asia: Configuring, Contesting and Recognizing Women and Men</i> , Copenhagen: NIAS Press.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Asia-Pacific Forum. Proceedings of the First Shizuoka Asia-Pacific Forum: "Asian Values" and Democracy in Asia, March 28, 1997.
2	Centre for Constitutional Dialogue. Human Rights in the Constitution – Nepal Participatory Constitution Building Booklet Series, No. 3, 2009.
3	Chalermphanupap, Termsak. 10 Facts about ASEAN Human Rights Cooperation.
4	Donnelly, Jack. <i>International Human Rights</i> . 3rd ed. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2007.
5	Ghai, Yash and Jill Cottrell (eds.), <i>Creating the New Constitution: A Guide for Nepali Citizens</i> . Stockholm: International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), 2008.
6	Gomez, Mario. "Sri Lanka's New Human Rights Commission", (1998) 20 <i>Human Rights Quarterly</i> 281.

7	Li, Zhaojie, "The Effect of Treaties in the Municipal Law of the People's Republic of China: Practice and Problems", 4 (1995) Asian Yearbook of International Law, 185.
8	Malanczuk, Peter, and Michael Akehurst. "Chapter 4, International and Municipal Law" Akehurst's Modern Introduction to International Law. 8th ed. London, New York: Routledge, 2008.
9	Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Nepal. National Human Rights Action Plan (2002-2004), 2004.
10	Petersen, Carole. Enforcing Human Rights in a Chinese Community: An Assessment of the Hong Kong Equal Opportunities Commission. Proceeding of Human Rights in Asia: Traditions and Trajectories Conference, March 2002, Michigan State University.
11	Sathe, S.P. Judicial activism in India. New Delhi; New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.
12	Sen, Amartya. "Human Rights and Asian Values." Sixteenth Morgenthau Memorial Lecture on Ethics & Foreign Policy. USA: Carnegie Council on Ethics & Foreign Policy, 1997.
13	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights - Commission on Human Rights Resolution 2002/83. ("Paris Principles") OR
14	United Nations Centre for Human Rights. National Human Rights Institutions: A Handbook on the Establishment and Strengthening of National Institutions. New York and Geneva, 1995.
15	Journals
16	Abdul Hasnat Monjuraul Kabir. "Establishing National Human Rights Commissions in South Asia: A Critical Analysis of the Processes and the Prospects" (2001) 2(1) Asia-Pacific Journal on Human Rights and the Law, 1.
17	Byrnes, Andrew, Andrea Durbach and Catherine Renshaw. "Joining the club: the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, the Paris Principles, and the advancement of human rights protection in the region" [2008] 14:1 Australian Journal of Human Rights, 63-98.
18	Farran, Sue. "Human Rights in the Pacific Region - Challenges and Solutions" 2005 LAWASIA Journal.
19	First Regional Conference on Building Networks to Strengthen ASEAN Human Rights Cooperation, [2006] 7:1 Asia-Pacific Journal of Human Rights and Law, 95-104.
20	Gomez, Mario. "Sri Lanka's New Human Rights Commission", (1998) 20 Human Rights Quarterly 281.
21	Heyns, Christof and Frans Viljoen. The Impact of the United Nations Human Rights Treaties on the Domestic Level, Human Rights Quarterly 23 (2001) 483.
22	Karean, Vanitha Sundra. "The Malaysian Constitution and Its Identity Crisis - Secular or Theocratic?" [2006] LAWASIA Journal.
23	Knop, Karen. "Here and There: International Law in Domestic Court" [2000] 32:501 International Law and Politics, 501.
24	Li, Xiaorong. "A Chinese Lesson On Cultural Rights" Human Rights Dialogue: "Cultural Rights" (Spring 2005). Carnegie Council
25	Wong, Kam C. "Human Rights and Limitation of State Power: The Discovery of Constitutionalism in the People's Republic of China" [2006] 7:1 Asia-Pacific Journal of Human Rights and Law, 1-6.
26	Online resources
27	These will be particularly useful in providing students with access to key official documents and statements, such as:
28	"ASEAN Charter." Aseansec Web. ASEAN, Web. < http://www.aseansec.org/AC.htm >."
29	"ASEAN: human rights in the Charter and beyond." Amnesty International USA Website. 21 Nov 2007. Amnesty International, Web. < http://www.amnestyusa.org/document.php?id=ENGASA010092007 > "<=e>."
30	Business & Human Rights Resource Centre Web. < http://www.business-humanrights.org >.
31	Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines Web. < http://www.chr.gov.ph >
32	"Constitution of East Timor" East Timor and Indonesia Action Network (ETAN) Web. < http://www.etan.org/etanpdf/pdf2/constfnen.pdf >.
33	"Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal (1990)" Supreme Court of Nepal Web. < http://www.supremecourt.gov.np/main.php?d=lawmaterial&f=constdef2047 >.

34	“Creating the New Constitution: A Guide for Nepali Citizens (Yash Ghai and Jill Cottrell, Eds.)” International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) Web, Feb 2009. < http://www.idea.int/publications/creating_the_new_constitution/np.cfm >.
35	“Interim Constitution of Nepal (2007)” World Statesmen Web. < http://www.worldstatesmen.org/Nepal_Interim_Constitution2007.pdf >.
36	“Human Rights Commission of Malaysia Act” Attorney General’ s Chambers (Malaysia) Web, Web. < www.agc.gov.my/agc/Akta/Vol.%2012/Act%20597.pdf >.
37	“Indonesia: National Plan of Action on Human Rights (1998-2003).” Embassy of Indonesia in Ottawa Web. http://www.indonesia-ottawa.org/page.php?s=1910national_plan_hr .
38	“National Human Rights Action Plan of China (2009-2010)” china.org.cn Web, 13 April 2009. < http://www.china.org.cn/archive/2009-04/13/content_17595407.htm >.
39	“National Human Rights Action Plan: Nepal.” Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Web. < http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/plan_actions/docs/Nepal_NHRAP.pdf >.
40	“National Human Rights Action Programme of Mongolia (2003).” Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Web. < http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/plan_actions/docs/mongolia.pdf >.
41	National Human Rights Commission of Korea Web. < http://www.humanrights.go.kr/english/index.jsp >.
42	“National Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea. Action Plans for Human Rights Promotion (2006-2008).” National Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea Web, 18 July, 2007. < http://www.humanrights.go.kr/english/download.jsp?board_id=Publications&filename=Action%20Plans%20for%20Human%20Rights%20Promotion(2006~2008).pdf >.
43	“National Human Rights Institutions: A Handbook on the Establishment and Strengthening of National Institutions” Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Web. < http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/training12en.pdf >.
44	“National Plans of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights - Philippines” Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Web. < http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/plan_actions/philippines.htm >.
45	Online Resources
46	Journals available at City University’ s Library:
47	Signs
48	Women: a cultural review
49	Women’ s Studies
50	Journal of Asian Studies
51	Journal of Contemporary Asia
52	Journal of Southeast Asian Studies
53	SOJOURN
54	South East Asia Research
55	Asian Pacific Viewpoint
56	Films and documentaries:
57	“Mississippi Masala” (1989)
58	“This Is My Life” (1992)
59	“The Story of Qui Ju” (1993)
60	“The Joy Luck Club” (1993)
61	“Muriel’ s wedding” (1995)
62	“Secrets and Lies” (1996)
63	“Girls Town” (1997)

64	“Lola Run Lola” (1999)
65	“Xiu Xiu The Sent-Down Girl” (1999)
66	“Boys Don't Cry” (2000)
67	“The codes of gender” (2009)
68	“Half the sky” (2012)