

PIA5338: INDONESIA: POLITICS AND SOCIETY

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Indonesia: Politics and Society

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

5338

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

AIS5338 Indonesia: Politics and Society

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

Indonesia, the world's third largest democracy and the most populous Muslim-majority society, presents an interesting contrast of great achievements and challenges that still need to be won. On one hand, Indonesia has consolidated in the

last two decades as one of the most successful democracies in Asia, and sustained economic development has improved the lives of many. On the other hand, the country is still struggling to address deep-seated inequalities, and intolerance towards religious minorities appears to be on the rise. In this respect, Indonesia resembles many other middle-income countries, and this course will therefore study it from a comparative perspective. Topics will include nationalism, the role of Islam in politics, economic development, foreign relations, local autonomy and decentralization, political elites and clientelism, activism and human rights. For each, the Indonesian case will be discussed in the context of broader debates in comparative politics, development studies and international relations.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	To possess a reasonably sophisticated knowledge about Indonesian history and contemporary Indonesian society and politics.	20	x	x	
2	To apply concepts and theoretical framework from social science to understand various issues of politics and society in Indonesia.	20	x	x	
3	To independently analyse political, economic, and social processes in Indonesia relevant to the concerns of the course.	20	x	x	x
4	To undertake independent research on specific issues of politics and society in Indonesia and, in so doing, access and critically evaluate a range of information sources.	20	x	x	x
5	To communicate research findings effectively, both orally and in writing.	20	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	Lectures	The instructor will present concept, theories and various aspects of Indonesia's politics and society	1, 2, 3

2	Class participation	Students are expected to attend all lectures/ seminars, prepare for class by reading required materials and participate actively to class discussion.	1, 2, 3	
3	Mid-term quiz and essay	Students will answer a series of multiple-choice questions designed to ascertain their knowledge of Indonesian history and society, and answer an essay question	1, 2, 3, 4	
4	Groupwork	Students will work in groups to deliver a presentation and lead a class discussion on a topic of their choice regarding Indonesia's contemporary politics and society	2, 3, 4, 5	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Class participation	1, 2, 3	15	-	Yes
2	Midterm quiz	1, 2, 3	20	-	No
3	Mid-term essay	1, 2, 3, 4	35	-	No
4	Presentation and class discussion	2, 3, 4, 5	30	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

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

Criterion

Level of grasp of reading materials and the ability of critical thinking (50%)

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Superior grasp of subject readings; evidence of critical thinking and extensive knowledge base.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Reasonable grasp of subject readings and some evidence of critical thinking and knowledge.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Evidence of knowledge about subject readings and some efforts for critical thinking.

Marginal

(D) Evidence of grasp of the subject readings but little evidence of critical thinking.

Failure

(F) Little evidence of grasp of subject readings and no evidence of critical thinking.

Assessment Task

Class participation (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 (50%)

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

Midterm quiz and essay (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Knowledge of the topics covered in class, and ability 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.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Organization and quality of material presented (33%)

Excellent

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

Good

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

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate organization and quality of material

Marginal

(D) Marginal organization and quality of material

Failure

(F) Poor organization and quality of material

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Presence and communication (33%)

Excellent

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

Good

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

Fair

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

Marginal

(D) Marginal presence and communication

Failure

(F) Poor presence and communication

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Class engagement (34%)

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to engage peers in debate and reflection

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good ability to engage peers in debate and reflection

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate ability to engage peers in debate and reflection

Marginal

(D) Marginal ability to engage peers in debate and reflection

Failure

(F) Poor ability to engage peers in debate and reflection

Assessment Task

Class participation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Level of understanding of reading materials and the ability of critical thinking (50%)

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Superior grasp of subject readings; evidence of critical thinking and extensive knowledge base.

Good

(B+, B) Reasonable grasp of subject readings and some evidence of critical thinking and knowledge.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Evidence of grasp of the subject readings but little evidence of critical thinking.

Failure

(F) Little evidence of grasp of subject readings and no evidence of critical thinking.

Assessment Task

Class participation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Quality of conceptual thinking and informed participation in discussion (50%)

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/limited 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

Midterm quiz and essay (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

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

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Limited 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.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Organization and quality of material presented (33%)

Excellent

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

Good

(B+, B) Good organization and quality of material

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Adequate to marginal organization and quality of material

Failure

(F) Poor organization and quality of material

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Presence and communication (33%)

Excellent

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

Good

(B+, B) Good presence and communication

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Adequate to marginal presence and communication

Failure

(F) Poor presence and communication

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Class engagement (34%)

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to engage peers in debate and reflection

Good

(B+, B) Good ability to engage peers in debate and reflection

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Adequate to marginal ability to engage peers in debate and reflection

Failure

(F) Poor ability to engage peers in debate and reflection

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Indonesia, history, nationalism, political Islam, authoritarianism, democratization, democratic consolidation, clientelism, political elites, decentralization, development, corruption, inequality, human rights, gender, activism, environment, international political economy, globalization.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	A full list of mandatory readings for each week will be made available on the first day of class. Most readings will be drawn from the following books:
2	A History of Modern Indonesia (Second Edition), by Adrian Vickers. Cambridge.
3	A Nation in Waiting: Indonesia's Search for Stability (Second Edition), by Adam Schwarz. Westview.
4	The Indonesia Reader: History, Culture and Politics, edited by T. Hellwig and E. Tagliacozzo. Duke.
5	Indonesia Etc.: Exploring the Improbable Nation, by Elizabeth Pisani. Norton.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	NIL