

# PIA5708: KEY ISSUES IN CHINESE POLITICS

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Key Issues in Chinese Politics

### Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

### Course Number

5708

### 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

POL5708 Key Issues in Chinese Politics

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course aims to examine the key issues of contemporary Chinese politics. The discussion assesses how the institutional structure and interactions amongst major stakeholders (the Party, national government, local administrations, enterprises,

civil society, international community and actors, etc.) affect the process and outcomes of politics. Upon completion of this course, students are expected to develop a good understanding of the logic and challenges of the contemporary Chinese governance institutions and working.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Understand relations between political issues, institutions and actors	30	x	x	x
2	Develop critical understanding of major institutions and workings in contemporary China and analytical skills in dissecting complex issues	40	x	x	x
3	Develop working skills in a team setting, such as an open attitude to diverse views and capacity to collate and organize materials	15	x	x	x
4	Enhance oral and written skills in an academic setting	15	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	Core concepts and examples.	1, 2, 4
2	Group presentations	Student led presentations and discussions (team work)	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Mini individual presentations	Individual mini-presentations on reading reviews/observations	1, 2, 4

### Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Individual Analytical Essay	1, 2, 3, 4	30	Summative assessment	No

2	Group Project (Presentation, Discussion and Slides)	1, 2, 3, 4	20	AI tools allowed for background research and preparatory stage but not in final presentation materials	No
3	Individual mini-presentations on reading reviews	1, 2, 4	20	Summative assessment	No
4	In-class Quiz	1, 2, 4	30	Summative assessment	No

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

Group Project (Presentations, Discussion and Slides) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

**Criterion**

Topic

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Topic is excellently defined and very clearly stated.

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Topic is defined well and clearly stated.

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Topic is defined with a fair degree of clarity.

**Marginal**

(D) Topic is partly defined, showing good efforts in attempting a definition.

**Failure**

(F) Topic not defined or poorly defined.

**Assessment Task**

Group Project (Presentations, Discussion and Slides) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

**Criterion**

Analysis

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Entirely demonstrates rigorous ability and competence to analyse and evaluate issues and concepts in the field.

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Generally, demonstrates rigorous ability and competence to analyse and evaluate issues and concepts in the field.

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Demonstrates a fair degree of ability and competence to analyse and evaluate issues and concepts in the field.

**Marginal**

(D) Demonstrates good efforts in attempting an analysis and some success in analysis.

**Failure**

(F) Overall, does not demonstrate the ability or competence to analyse and evaluate issues and concepts in the field.

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**Assessment Task**

Group Project (Presentations, Discussion and Slides) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

**Criterion**

Structure

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Organization and structure excellent. Arguments are well structured and supported by relevant concepts and empirical examples.

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Organization and structure clear. Arguments are structured and supported by some relevant concepts and empirical examples.

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Organization and structure mostly clear. Arguments are not well-structured, and lack support by relevant concepts and empirical examples.

**Marginal**

(D) Demonstrates efforts in attempting at organizing and structuring the materials, with some limited success.

**Failure**

(F) Organization and structure lacking. Unorganised information.

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**Assessment Task**

Group Project (Presentations, Discussion and Slides) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

**Criterion**

Source material

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Source material is incorporated logically and insightfully. Sources are documented accurately.

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Good incorporation of source material. Good use of source documentation.

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Achieving a basic level of incorporation of source material and use of source documentation.

**Marginal**

(D) Demonstrates efforts in use and documentation of source materials with some partial success.

**Failure**

(F) Source material mostly not incorporated. Inaccurate documentation.

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**Assessment Task**

Group Project (Presentations, Discussion and Slides) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

**Criterion**

Critical thinking

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Demonstration of excellent knowledge and skills in original and creative research and critical thinking.

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Demonstration of strong knowledge and skills in original and creative research and critical thinking.

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Demonstration of a basic level of knowledge and skills in original and creative research and critical thinking.

**Marginal**

(D) Demonstration of weak knowledge and skills in original and creative research and critical thinking.

**Failure**

(F) Almost no demonstration of critical ability to interpret data and argument.

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**Assessment Task**

Group Project (Presentations, Discussion and Slides) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

**Criterion**

Presentation quality

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ideas/concepts supported by excellent and articulate details/illustrations.

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Good ideas/concepts supported by articulate details/illustrations.

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Adequate ideas/concepts supported by adequate and articulate details/illustrations.

**Marginal**

(D) Demonstrates good efforts in generating and articulating ideas/concepts with some details and illustrations.

**Failure**

(F) Fails to articulate ideas/concepts supported by appropriate details/illustrations.

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**Assessment Task**

Group Project (Presentations, Discussion and Slides) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

**Criterion**

Team work

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Excellent team work collaboration.

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Good team work collaboration.

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Adequate team work collaboration.

**Marginal**

(D) Demonstrates good efforts in engaging in team work.

**Failure**

(F) Unable to demonstrate adequate team work collaboration.

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**Assessment Task**

Group Project (Presentations, Discussion and Slides) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

**Criterion**

Q&A

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Excellent responds to audience questions.

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Good responds to audience questions.

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Responds to audience questions.

**Marginal**

(D) Demonstrates good efforts to respond to audience questions.

**Failure**

(F) Fails to adequately respond to audience questions.

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**Assessment Task**

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

**Criterion**

Responding to questions

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Response very clearly stated and answer is excellently argued.

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Response clearly stated and answer is argued well.

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Response adequately stated and answer is adequately argued.

**Marginal**

(D) Response stated with a fair degree of clarity and accuracy.

**Failure**

(F) Response unstated and answer not argued.

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**Assessment Task**

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

**Criterion**

Ability to reflect

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Excellently demonstrate ability to reflect.

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Clearly demonstrate ability to reflect.

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Demonstrate some ability to reflect.

**Marginal**

(D) Demonstrates good efforts to reflect.

**Failure**

(F) Fail to demonstrate ability to reflect.

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**Assessment Task**

Individual Analytical Essay (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

**Criterion**

Ability to organize materials, and to argue coherently with evidence and substantiations

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) High standard of knowledge, critical reasoning and original ideas of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Strong ability to analyse the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Excellent analytic, writing and communication skills.

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Good knowledge and critical reflection of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Ability to analyse the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Good analytic, writing and communication skills.

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Basic knowledge of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Marginally functional ability to explain the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Basic analytic, writing and communication skills.

**Marginal**

(D) Limited knowledge of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Weak functional ability to explain the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Weak analytic, writing and communication skills.

**Failure**

(F) Poor knowledge of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Very weak ability to explain the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Very weak analytic, writing and communication skills.

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**Assessment Task**

Individual mini-presentations on reading reviews (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

**Criterion**

Ability to get to the gist of the reading materials and to give a cogent oral summary and to reflect upon it

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Outstanding grasp of the reading materials' core arguments as well as details; displaying deep reflection on the contents and excellent delivery

**Good**

(B+, B, B-) Good grasp of the reading materials' core arguments as well as details; displaying reflections on the contents and effective delivery

**Fair**

(C+, C, C-) Basic grasp of the reading materials' core arguments with some details; displaying a willingness to reflect on the contents and functional delivery

**Marginal**

(D) Limited grasp of the reading materials' core arguments with some details; displaying limited willingness to reflect on the contents and functional delivery

**Failure**

(F) Weak grasp of the reading materials' core arguments with little details; displaying a very low level of reflection on the contents and weak delivery

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**Assessment Task**

Group Project (Presentations, Discussion and Slides) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

**Criterion**

Topic

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Topic is excellently defined and very clearly stated.

**Good**

(B+, B) Topic is defined well and clearly stated.

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Topic is defined and adequately stated.

**Failure**

(F) Topic not defined.

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**Assessment Task**

Group Project (Presentations, Discussion and Slides) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

**Criterion**

Analysis

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Entirely demonstrates rigorous ability to analyse and evaluate issues and concepts in the field.

**Good**

(B+, B) Generally, demonstrates rigorous ability to analyse and evaluate issues and concepts in the field.

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Demonstrates some ability to analyse and evaluate issues and concepts in the field.

**Failure**

(F) Overall, does not demonstrate the ability to analyse and evaluate issues and concepts in the field.

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**Assessment Task**

Group Project (Presentations, Discussion and Slides) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

**Criterion**

Structure

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Organization and structure excellent. Arguments are well structured and supported by relevant concepts and empirical examples.

**Good**

(B+, B) Organization and structure clear. Arguments are structured and supported by some relevant concepts and empirical examples.

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Organization and structure mostly clear. Arguments are not well-structured, and lack support by relevant concepts and empirical examples.

**Failure**

(F) Organization and structure lacking. Unorganised information.

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**Assessment Task**

Group Project (Presentations, Discussion and Slides) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

**Criterion**

Source material

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Source material is incorporated logically and insightfully. Sources are documented accurately.

**Good**

(B+, B) Good incorporation of source material. Good use of source documentation.

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Adequate incorporation of source material. Adequate use of source documentation.

**Failure**

(F) Source material not incorporated. Documentation is Inaccurate.

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**Assessment Task**

Group Project (Presentations, Discussion and Slides) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

**Criterion**

Critical thinking

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Excellent demonstration of knowledge and skills required for original and creative research and very high quality of critical thinking.

**Good**

(B+, B) Good demonstration of knowledge and skills required for original and creative research and good quality of critical thinking.

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Adequate demonstration of knowledge and skills required for original and creative research and average effort and ability to think critically.

**Failure**

(F) Almost no demonstration of critical ability to interpret data and argument.

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**Assessment Task**

Group Project (Presentations, Discussion and Slides) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

**Criterion**

Presentation quality

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ideas/concepts supported by excellent and articulate details/illustrations.

**Good**

(B+, B) Good ideas/concepts supported by good and articulate details/illustrations.

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Adequate ideas/concepts supported by adequate and articulate details/illustrations.

**Failure**

(F) Fails to produce adequate ideas/concepts supported by adequate and articulate details/illustrations.

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**Assessment Task**

Group Project (Presentations, Discussion and Slides) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

**Criterion**

Team work

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Excellent team work collaboration.

**Good**

(B+, B) Good team work collaboration.

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Adequate team work collaboration.

**Failure**

(F) Unable to demonstrate adequate team work collaboration.

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**Assessment Task**

Group Project (Presentations, Discussion and Slides) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

**Criterion**

Q&A

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Excellent responds to audience questions.

**Good**

(B+, B) Good responds to audience questions.

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Responds to audience questions.

**Failure**

(F) Fails to adequately respond to audience questions.

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**Assessment Task**

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

**Criterion**

Responding to questions

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Response very clearly stated and answer is excellently argued.

**Good**

(B+, B) Response clearly stated and answer is argued well.

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Response adequately stated and answer is adequately argued.

**Failure**

(F) Response unstated and answer not argued.

### **Assessment Task**

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

#### **Criterion**

Ability to reflect

#### **Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Excellently demonstrate ability to reflect on their own experience in the field.

#### **Good**

(B+, B) Clearly demonstrate ability to reflect on their own experience in the field.

#### **Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Demonstrate some ability to reflect on their own experience in the field.

#### **Failure**

(F) Fail to demonstrate ability to reflect on their own experience in the field.

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### **Assessment Task**

Individual Analytical Essay (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

#### **Criterion**

Ability to organize materials, and to argue coherently with evidence and substantiations

#### **Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) High standard of knowledge, critical reasoning and original ideas of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Strong ability to analyse the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Excellent analytic, writing and communication skills.

#### **Good**

(B+, B) Good knowledge and critical reflection of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Ability to analyse the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Good analytic, writing and communication skills.

#### **Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Basic knowledge of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Marginally functional ability to explain the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Basic analytic, writing and communication skills.

#### **Failure**

(F) Poor knowledge of the complexity of politics in contemporary China. Weak ability to explain the ideology, institutions and actual operation of contemporary Chinese politics, as well as to compare and evaluate the major political, economic, and social events and policy moves in China. Weak analytic, writing and communication skills.

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### **Assessment Task**

Individual mini-presentations on reading reviews (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

#### **Criterion**

Ability to get to the gist of the reading materials and to give a cogent oral summary and to reflect upon it

**Excellent**

(A+, A, A-) Outstanding grasp of the reading materials' core arguments as well as details; displaying deep reflection on the contents and excellent delivery

**Good**

(B+, B) Good grasp of the reading materials' core arguments as well as details; displaying reflections on the contents and effective delivery

**Marginal**

(B-, C+, C) Basic grasp of the reading materials' core arguments with some details; displaying a willingness to reflect on the contents and functional delivery

**Failure**

(F) Limited grasp of the reading materials' core arguments with little details; displaying a low level of reflection on the contents and weak delivery

**Part III Other Information****Keyword Syllabus**

Actors and Institutions; Paradoxes and Change; Social Control Structures; Centre-Periphery Dynamics; Belt and Road Initiative; Bureaucratic Slack; Domestic and External Challenges

**Reading List****Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	See Course Outline

**Additional Readings**

Title	
1	Nil