

PIA2200: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL STUDIES THROUGH FILM

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Introduction to International Studies Through Film

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

2200

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

AIS2200 Introduction to International Studies Through Film

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course utilises films as a tool to introduce students to key themes, events and theories in international studies. Throughout the semester, a set of films will be screened in class to enhance understanding of global issues and relevant scholarly discussion. The primary goal of this course is to equip students with the tools and skills necessary to understand and discuss these issues in everyday life and beyond. Students will better understand the role of institutions and politics in global issues and the interaction among state and non-state actors involved in these issues. They will also learn to identify patterns of socio-political development and discern the factors contributing to effective global governance. This course eventually requires students to critically analyse films by applying basic theories of international studies. Overall, it allows students to develop a holistic perspective on global issues and their impact on society.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Develop a holistic understanding of key themes in international studies through critical analysis of films	x	x	x
2	Gain an increased awareness of important social, political and economic issues and events	x	x	x
3	Compare and contrast different theories to understand and explain these issues and events	x	x	x
4	Understand the roles of state and non-state actors in shaping and reshaping these issues and events.	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	To introduce key themes, events and theories in international studies	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Film screening; use of digital video clips	To help illuminate topical issues and stimulate critical reflection	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Readings	To help students develop an in-depth understanding of key themes, events and theories discussed in lectures	1, 2, 3, 4

4	Discussions	To provide students with opportunities to clarify, analyse and debate key themes and theories	1, 2, 3, 4	
5	Quizzes	To assess students' mastery of course materials, including films and readings, and their ability to engage critically with theoretical and practical issues	1, 2, 3, 4	
6	Group Project	To provide students with an opportunity to collaboratively explore a selected theme in international studies through critical analysis of films	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Quizzes	1, 2, 3, 4	60	Midterm Quiz: 30% Final Quiz: 30%	No
2	Group Project	1, 2, 3, 4	40	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Quizzes

Criterion

Understanding; Analysis; Writing Skills

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Comprehensive and critical understanding and analysis of key themes, events and theories in international studies with excellent writing skills

Good (B+, B, B-)

Fairly good understanding and analysis of key themes, events and theories in international studies with good writing skills

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Rudimentary understanding and analysis of key themes, events and theories in international studies with basic writing skills

Marginal (D)

Poor understanding and analysis of key themes, events and theories in international studies with weak writing skills

Failure (F)

Almost no understanding and analysis of key themes, events and theories in international studies with inadequate writing skills

Assessment Task

Group Project

Criterion

Organisation; Content; Writing and Presentation Skills

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent organisation and insightful content on a selected theme in international studies through critical analysis of films with excellent writing and presentation skills

Good (B+, B, B-)

Clear organisation and fairly adequate content on a selected theme in international studies through critical analysis of films with good writing and presentation skills

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Fair organisation and adequate content on a selected theme in international studies through critical analysis of films with basic writing and presentation skills

Marginal (D)

Poor organisation and weak content on a selected theme in international studies through critical analysis of films with weak writing and presentation skills

Failure (F)

Very poor organisation and inadequate content on a selected theme in international studies through critical analysis of films with almost no writing and presentation skills

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Realism; Liberalism; Globalisation, Global Inequality; Global Economic Crisis; War and Peace; Terrorism and Counter-terrorism; Humanitarian Intervention; Cold War Politics; Ideological Conflicts

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	Heywood, Andrew. Global Politics. London: Palgrave, 2013.
2	Mansbach, Richard W., and Kirsten L. Taylor. Introduction to Global Politics. London: Routledge, 2008.
3	McMahon, Robert J. The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.
4	Levitsky, O' Riordan, Elspeth. Understanding the Cold War: History, Approaches and Debate. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2022.
5	Roberts, Priscilla, and John M. Carroll, eds. Hong Kong in the Cold War. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2016.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Fukuyama, Francis. <i>The End of History and the Last Man</i> . London: Hamish Hamilton, 1992.
2	Hamilton, Peter E. <i>Made in Hong Kong: Transpacific Networks and a New History of Globalization</i> . New York: Columbia University Press, 2021.
3	Harman, Sophie. <i>Seeing Politics: Film, Visual Method, and International Relations</i> . Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2019.
4	Harrington, Daniel F. <i>Berlin on the Brink: The Blockade, the Airlift, and the Early Cold War</i> . Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2012
5	Hung, Ho-fung. <i>Clash of Empires: from 'Chimerica' to the 'New Cold War'</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022
6	Lorenzini, Sara. <i>Global development: A Cold War history</i> . Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019.
7	Mark, Chi-Kwan. <i>Hong Kong and the Cold War: Anglo-American relations 1949-1957</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
8	Mark, Chi-kwan. 'The "Problem of People" : British Colonials, Cold War Powers, and the Chinese Refugees in Hong Kong, 1949-62' . <i>Modern Asian Studies</i> 41, no. 6 (2007): 1145–81. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0026749X06002666 .
9	Mark, Chi-Kwan. 'Vietnam War tourists: US Naval visits to Hong Kong and British-American-Chinese relations, 1965–1968' . <i>Cold War History</i> 10, no.1(2010): 1-28. http://doi.org/10.1080/14682740902837001
10	Shadle, Brett L. 'Reluctant Humanitarians: British Policy Toward Refugees in Kenya During the Italo-Ethiopian War, 1935–1940' . <i>The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History</i> 47, no. 1 (2019): 167–86. https://doi.org/10.1080/03086534.2018.1506872 .
11	Simpser, Alberto, Dan Slater, and Jason Wittenberg. 'Dead But Not Gone: Contemporary Legacies of Communism, Imperialism, and Authoritarianism' . <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 21, no. 1 (2018): 419–39. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-polisci-062615-020900
12	Sinn, Elizabeth. <i>Pacific Crossing: California Gold, Chinese Migration, and the Making of Hong Kong</i> . Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2013.
13	Tusan, Michelle Elizabeth. <i>Smyrna's Ashes: Humanitarianism, Genocide, and the Birth of the Middle East</i> . Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012.
14	Westad, Odd Arne. <i>The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005