

PIA3034: ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES IN ASIA AND THE WORLD

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Environmental Challenges in Asia and the World

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

3034

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

AIS3034 Environmental Challenges in Asia and the World

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

In this course, you will learn about different environmental issues currently taking place in Asia and the world. Through discussions, in-class activities, films, writing assignments, and group work, you will study how different actors and processes shape the human-environment relationship. We will focus each class on a specific topic, such as climate change, land grabbing, and environmental activism. Using different case studies from Asia, we will ground various theories linked to environmental issues, such as political ecology and environmental justice. We will also examine the scientific, social, cultural, political, and ethical aspects of each challenge. Throughout the course, you will be encouraged to think critically and to look beyond the question of ‘how’ something is, but also ask ‘why’ something is. What creates environmental problems for people in Asia? What are the connections between environment, society, politics, and economics?

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	An in-depth understanding of some of the major environmental problems confronting Asian countries and the forces that create such issues	30	x	x
2	An awareness of some of the ways in which environmental challenges are being addressed in Asia	20		x
3	Extensive knowledge of socio-cultural, economic and political factors that shape environmental governance in Asian countries	20	x	x
4	Be able to use theoretical perspectives to identify and explain domestic and global environmental problems and the linkages among them.	15		x
5	Demonstrate the ability to access sources of environmental knowledge and the skill to critically interpret, assess and apply evidence	15	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	CILO 1-5	Lectures	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2	CILO 2-6	Presentations	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3	CILO 2-6	Class and online-discussion participation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4	CILO 2-6	Term paper	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5	CILO 2-6	Tutorials	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Term paper	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	25	-	No
2	Final quiz	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30	-	No
3	Class Participation,	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	15	-	Yes
4	Group presentations	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	15	-	No
5	Reading reviews	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	15	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Term paper

Criterion

To demonstrate the understanding of the theories and cases discussed in the course

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent understanding of the theories and cases discussed in the course

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good understanding of the theories and cases discussed in the course

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate understanding of the theories and cases discussed in the course

Marginal (D)

Marginal understanding of the theories and cases discussed in the course

Failure (F)

Fail to demonstrate reasonable understanding of the theories and cases discussed in the course

Assessment Task

2. Final quiz

Criterion

To demonstrate the understanding of the theories and cases discussed in the course

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent understanding of the theories and cases discussed in the course

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good understanding of the theories and cases discussed in the course

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate understanding of the theories and cases discussed in the course

Marginal (D)

Marginal understanding of the theories and cases discussed in the course

Failure (F)

Fail to demonstrate reasonable understanding of the theories and cases discussed in the course

Assessment Task

3. Group presentation

Criterion

To analyze an environmental case

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent analysis of an environmental case

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good analysis of an environmental case

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate analysis of an environmental case

Marginal (D)

Marginal analysis of an environmental case

Failure (F)

Fail to analyze an environmental case

Assessment Task

4. Classroom discussion

Criterion

To involve in classroom discussion about various environmental topics

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent involvement in classroom discussion about various environmental topics

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good involvement in classroom discussion about various environmental topics

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate involvement in classroom discussion about various environmental topics

Marginal (D)

Marginal involvement in classroom discussion about various environmental topics

Failure (F)

Fail to get involved in classroom discussion about various environmental topics

Assessment Task

5. Reading review

Criterion

To demonstrate the understanding of the readings used in course

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent understanding of the readings used in course

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good understanding of the readings used in course

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate understanding of the readings used in course

Marginal (D)

Marginal understanding of the readings used in course

Failure (F)

Fail to demonstrate reasonable understanding of the readings used in course

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Environmental impact of economic development, environmental organizations, state environmental policies, environment and social conflict, state capacity and corruption.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Economy, E. C., 2004. The river runs black: the environmental challenge to China's future. Ithaca, N.Y. : Cornell University Press.
2	James, H., 2005. Governance and civil society in Myanmar: education, health, and environment. London; New York: RoutledgeCurzon.
3	Humphrey, C., 1999. The end of Nomadism?: society, state and the environment in Inner Asia. Durham, NC : Duke University Press.
4	Tencken, D., Fien, J. & Sykes, H., eds., 2000. Environment, education and society in the Asia-Pacific: local traditions and global discourses. London; New York: Routledge.
5	Lee, Y. F. & So, A. Y., eds., 1999. ,Asia's environmental movements: comparative perspectives. Armonk, N.Y. : M.E. Sharpe.
6	Arne Kalland, A. & Persoon, G., 1998. Environmental movements in Asia. Richmond: Curzon.
7	Chapman, G., et al., 1997. Environmentalism and the mass media: the North/South divide. London: Routledge.
8	Sharma, M., 2001. Landscapes and lives: environmental dispatches on rural India. New Delhi; New York: Oxford University Press.
9	Suliman, M., ed., 1999. Ecology, politics and violent conflict. London; New York: Zed Books.

10	Peritore, N. P., 1999. Third World environmentalism: case studies from the Global South. Gainesville: University Press of Florida.
11	Bryant, R. L., 1997. Third World political ecology. London: Routledge.
12	Cohen, M. J., ed., 2000. Risk in the modern age: social theory, science, and environmental decision-making. New York: St. Martin's Press; Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Macmillan Press.
13	Dalton, R. J., 1994. The green rainbow: environmental groups in Western Europe. New Haven: Yale University Press.
14	Grove, R., 1997. Ecology, Climate and empire: colonialism and global environmental history, 1400-1940. Cambridge: White Horse Press.
15	O'Leary, R., 2003. Environmental mafia: the enemy is us. New York: Algora Pub.
16	Ch'en, C. H., 1996. Mass media and environmental protection in Hong Kong. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Baptist University.
17	Martin, E. F. Jr., ed., 1993. Green journalism: environmental consciousness and the mass media. Hong Kong: Goethe-Institute Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist College, School of Communication.
18	Lee, R. D., 1990. Trashing the planet: how science can help us deal with acid rain, depletion of the ozone, and nuclear waste (among other things). Washington, D.C.: Regnery Gateway.
19	Harrison, S., ed., foreword by Howarth, G., 1999. Disasters and the media: managing crisis communications. Basingstoke, Hampshire: Macmillan Business.
20	Meister, M. & Japp, P. M., eds., 2002. Enviropop: studies in environmental rhetoric and popular culture. Westport, Conn. ; London : Praeger.
21	Lee, R. D., 1993. Environmental overkill: whatever happened to common sense? Washington, D.C.: Regnery Gateway.
22	Allan, S., Adam, S. & Carter, C., eds., 2000. Environmental risks and the media. London; New York: Routledge.
23	Smith, J., ed., 2000. The daily globe: environmental change, the public and the media. London: Earthscan.
24	DeLuca, K. M., 1999. Image politics: the new rhetoric of environmental activism. New York: Guilford Press.
25	Hansen, A., ed., 1993. The Mass media and environmental issues. Leicester: Leicester University Press.
26	Lindahl Elliot, N., 2006. Mediating nature. London; New York: Routledge.
27	Burgess, J. & Gold, J. R., eds., 1985. Geography, the media & popular culture. London: Croom Helm.
28	Cubitt, S., 2005. Eco media. Amsterdam; New York: Rodopi.
29	Lasn, K., 1999. Culture jam: the uncooling of America. New York: Eagle Brook.
30	Environmental Literary Council. Available at: http://www.enviroliteracy.org/index.php
31	Centre for Environment and Society. Available at: http://www.essex.ac.uk/ces/
32	Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES). Available at: http://www.jacsces.org/en/index.html
33	BT Sustainability report. Available at: http://www.btplc.com/Societyandenvironment/Socialandenvironmentreport/index.aspx
34	BP Environment and Society. Available at: http://www.bp.com/productlanding.do?categoryId=6900&contentId=7028276
35	Unilever. Available at: http://www.unilever.com/ourvalues/environment-society/
36	Project on Environmental Change and Foreign Policy. Available at: http://www.ln.edu.hk/projects/ecfp/Home.htm
37	Natural capitalism (a book). Available at: http://www.natcap.org/sitepages/pid20.php
38	The Lancaster Environment Centre. Available at: http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/depts/lec/themes_society.htm
39	UCLA Department of Geography, Environmental and Society Research Unit. Available at: http://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/research/esru/themes.htm