

PIA3070: SPECIAL TOPICS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Special Topics in Development Studies

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

3070

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

AIS3070 Special Topics in Development Studies

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to identify topics of special interest within the field of Development Studies which are not otherwise offered to students in the regular programme structure. A critical emphasis will be placed on affording students the opportunity to make policy relevant discoveries about development studies cases.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	To identify key issues within the field of Development Studies	x		
2	To use advanced theoretical approaches to construct models for understanding these issues	x	x	x
3	To assess case studies within the issues and use the theories to discover possible outcomes	x	x	
4	To develop research and analytical skills	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 1-4	Lectures: the instructor will present concepts, theories and case studies on Development Studies	1, 2, 3, 4
2	CILO 1-4	Class discussions, both in-class and in external fora will engage students in debates and explorations	1, 2, 3, 4
3	CILO 1-4	Oral presentations: Students will work in groups to lead class discussions and structured question and answer sessions on relevant topics	1, 2, 3, 4
4	CILO 1-4	Research: students use relevant materials to write papers as set by the instructor	1, 2, 3, 4

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Attendance and Participation	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	Yes
2	Presentation	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	No
3	Quiz	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	No
4	Term paper	1, 2, 3, 4	40	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Quiz

Criterion

Demonstrate understanding of concepts, theories and case studies covered in the course.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent understanding of concepts, theories and case studies covered in the course.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good understanding of concepts, theories and case studies covered in the course.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate/satisfactory understanding of concepts, theories and case studies covered in the course.

Marginal (D)

Limited understanding of concepts, theories and case studies covered in the course.

Failure (F)

Little or no understanding of concepts, theories and case studies covered in the course.

Assessment Task

2. Attendance and Participation

Criterion

Regular attendance and contributions to in-class discussions (both quality and quantity).

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Regular attendance, consistently excellent contributions to in-class discussions.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Regular attendance, consistently good contributions to in-class discussions.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Irregular attendance, adequate contributions to in-class discussions.

Marginal (D)

Irregular attendance, limited contributions to in-class discussions.

Failure (F)

Irregular attendance, little to no contribution to in-class discussions.

Assessment Task

3. Presentation

Criterion

Work in groups to prepare/deliver presentations on relevant topics.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Preparation/delivery of excellent presentations on relevant topics.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Preparation/delivery of good presentations on relevant topics.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Preparation/delivery of adequate presentations on relevant topics.

Marginal (D)

Preparation/delivery of marginal presentations on relevant topics.

Failure (F)

Preparation/delivery of unsatisfactory presentations on relevant topics.

Assessment Task

4. Term paper

Criterion

Assessed based on their capacity to analyse relevant materials and formulate a strong argument.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent capacity to analyse relevant materials and formulate a strong argument.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good capacity to analyse relevant materials and formulate a strong argument.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate capacity to analyse relevant materials and formulate a strong argument.

Marginal (D)

Limited capacity to analyse relevant materials and formulate a strong argument.

Failure (F)

Little or no capacity to analyse relevant materials and formulate a strong argument.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

As this is intended as an umbrella course, it has no fixed syllabus of its own. The syllabus of each intensive seminar offered under this course will be decided by the visiting staff and/or the programme leader and outlined in the course manual. For record purposes, the keyword syllabus of every intensive course will be included in an Appendix-A to this Form, while the course outline and recommended readings will be included in future Appendix Bs.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Nil