

PIA3124: SPECIAL TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES I

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Special Topics in International Studies I

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

3124

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

AIS3124 Special Topics in International Studies I

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to identify topics of special interest within the discipline of International Studies that are not otherwise offered to students in the regular programme offering.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	To identify key issues within the field of Asian Studies	x	x	x
2	To use advanced theoretical approaches to construct models for understanding these issues			
3	To assess case studies within the issues and use the theories to predict possible outcomes			
4	To develop research and analytical skills	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	Lecture	the instructor will present concepts, theories and case studies on Asian Studies	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Class discussions	both in-class and in external fora will engage students in debates and explorations	1, 2, 3, 4
3	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	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	10	-	Yes
2	Presentation	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	No
3	Exam (Mid-term and Final)	1, 2, 3, 4	50	-	No
4	Class Reports	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Attendance and Participation

Criterion

Active and informed participation in class/class etiquette

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent demonstration of active and informed participation in class/ excellent class etiquette

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette

Marginal (D)

Marginal demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette

Failure (F)

Poor demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette

Assessment Task

2. Presentation

Criterion

- Presence and communication (50%)
- Organisation and quality of material presented (50%)

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent presence and communication
 Excellent organisation and quality of material

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good presence and communication
 Good organisation and quality of material

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate presence and communication
Adequate organisation and quality of material

Marginal (D)

Marginal presence and communication
Marginal organisation and quality of material

Failure (F)

Poor presence and communication
Poor organisation and quality of material

Assessment Task

3. Exam (Mid-term and Final)

Criterion

Quality and demonstration of knowledge gained from readings and lecture notes.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent demonstration of knowledge gained from readings and lecture notes.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good demonstration of knowledge gained from readings and lecture notes.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate demonstration of knowledge gained from readings and lecture notes.

Marginal (D)

Marginal demonstration of knowledge gained from readings and lecture notes.

Failure (F)

Poor demonstration of knowledge gained from readings and lecture notes.

Assessment Task

4. Class Reports

Criterion

- Quality of writing (grammar, structure and coherence) (25%)
- Application and demonstrated comprehension of theories and approaches covered in the course (40%)
- Quality and originality of argument (35%)

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent quality of writing
Excellent application and demonstrated comprehension of theories and approaches covered in the course
Excellent and original argument

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good quality of writing
Good application and demonstrated comprehension of theories and approaches covered in the course
Good and reasonably original 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	Hall, P.A. and D. Soskice (2001). <i>Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press.
2	Vogel, S.K. (2018). <i>Marketcraft: How Governments Make Markets Work</i> , Oxford: Oxford University Press.
3	Wong, J. (2011). <i>Betting on Biotech: Innovation and the Limits of Asia' s Developmental State</i> , Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Socio-Economic Review (various issues)