

PIA4072: CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF THE ASIA PACIFIC

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Contemporary International Politics of the Asia Pacific

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

4072

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

AIS4072 Contemporary International Politics of the Asia Pacific

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

THIS IS NOT A CURRENT AFFAIRS MODULE. Current events will be addressed only when relevant to learning about and evaluating the theories and empirical investigations at hand. The first part of the course will provide a historical and theoretical overview of regionalism and of the Asia-Pacific region's international relations, with the Cold War as a starting point. The second part assesses competing theoretical explanations for the international behaviour and interactions of the region's major powers. The final section examines some key multilateral/transnational issues as sources of potential conflict and/or cooperation. The countries considered in detail will be China, Japan, South Korea, North Korea and the United States.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)		
1	Identify and describe key actors and issues in the international politics of the Asia-Pacific	20	x	
2	Explain the causes of a specific conflict in the international politics of the Asia-Pacific using relevant disciplinary insights	20		x
3	Apply a recognised approach to the international politics of the Asia Pacific (e.g. realism, liberalism, constructivism etc.) to a specific issue.	30		x
4	Compare and contrast approaches to international politics in relation to a specific issue	20		x
5	Evaluate or propose solutions to conflicts under study	10		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	Lectures: the instructor will present concepts, theories and case studies on international politics in the Asia-Pacific region	1
2	Oral presentations	students will work in groups to lead class discussions and structured question and answer sessions on relevant topics	2, 3

3	Research	students will use relevant materials to write papers as set by the instructor	3	
4	Quiz	Students will explain keys concepts and issues in an advanced format	4	
5	Tutorial presentation		5	

Additional Information for LTAs

CILO 3: The Professional Writing Workshop will engage students with appropriate forms of writing for Briefing Reports. Samples will be explored and students will be invited to share, for comment and improvement, examples of their writing.

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Class participation	1, 2, 4, 5	10	-	Yes
2	Class debates on topics with theoretical and empirical significance for the international relations of the region	1, 3	15	-	No
3	Policy paper	2, 3, 4, 5	25	-	No
4	Quiz (mid-term and final)	1, 2, 3, 4	50	-	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. Debate

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. Policy paper

Criterion

- Quality of writing (grammar, structure and coherence) (25%)
- Application and demonstrated comprehension of theories and approaches covered in the course (15%)
- Demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials in relation to argument (25%)
- 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 demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials
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 demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials
Good and original argument

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate quality of writing
Adequate application and demonstrated comprehension of theories and approaches covered in the course
Adequate demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials
Adequate articulation of argument

Marginal (D)

Marginal quality of writing
Marginal application and demonstrated comprehension of theories and approaches covered in the course
Marginal demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials
Marginal demonstration of argument

Failure (F)

Poor quality of writing
Poor application and demonstrated comprehension of theories and approaches covered in the course
Poor demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials
Poor deployment of or non-existent argument

Assessment Task

4. Quiz (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.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Power, strategic culture, foreign policy, hegemony, grand strategy, constructivism, liberalism, realism, security, international politics, Asia Pacific, terrorism, territorial disputes, history issues, alliances, regionalism, divided states.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Shambaugh, D. & Yahuda, M., eds., 2008. International Relations of Asia. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
2	Kim, S. S., ed., 2004. The International Relations of Northeast Asia. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

3	Saadia M. Pekkanen, John Ravenhill and Rosemary Foot eds., 2014. <i>The International Relations of Asia</i> , Oxford: Oxford University Press.
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Additional Readings

	Title
1	Alagappa, M., ed., 1998. <i>Asian Security Practice: Material and Ideational Influences</i> . Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.
2	_____, 2003. <i>Asian Security Order: Norms, Power and Prospects for Peaceful Change</i> . Stanford: Stanford University Press.
3	Berger, T. U., Mochizuki, M. M. & Tsuchiyama, J., eds., 2007. <i>Japan in International Politics: The Foreign Policies of an Adaptive State</i> . Boulder & London: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
4	Berger, Thomas U., 2012. <i>War, Guilt, and World Politics after World War II</i> , Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
5	Cha, V. D. & Kang, D. C., eds., 2003. <i>Nuclear North Korea: A Debate on Engagement Strategies</i> . New York: Columbia University Press.
6	Goldstein, A. & Mansfield, E.D., eds., 2012. <i>The Nexus of Economics, Security and International Relations in East Asia</i> , Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press.
7	Ikenberry, G. J. & Mastanduno, M., eds., 2003. <i>International Relations Theory and the Asia-Pacific</i> . New York: Columbia University Press.
8	Krauss, E. S. & Pempel, T. J., eds., 2003. <i>Beyond Bilateralism: U.S.-Japan Relations in the New Asia-Pacific</i> . Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press; London: Eurospan.
9	Lam, P.E., ed., 2006. <i>Japan's Relations with China: Facing a Rising Power</i> . London and New York: Routledge.
10	Ross, R. S. & Zhu, F., eds., 2008. <i>China's Ascent: Power, Security, and the Future of International Politics</i> . Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press.
11	Vicziany, M., Wright-Neville, D. & Lentini, P., eds., 2004. <i>Regional Security in the Asia Pacific: 9/11 and After</i> . Cheltenham: UK, Edward Elgar.
12	Yahuda, M., 2004. <i>The International Politics of the Asia-Pacific</i> . 2 ed. London and New York: Routledge.
13	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)). Available at: http://www.aseansec.org/
14	Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies. Available at: http://www.apcss.org/text/text_research.htm
15	Asian Studies WWW Virtual Library. Available at: http://www.coombs.anu.edu.au/WWWVL-AsianStudies.html
16	Center for Strategic & International Studies. Available at: http://www.csis.org/pacfor/
17	China Daily. Available at: http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/
18	China Leadership Monitor. Available at: http://www.hoover.org/publications/clm .
19	The China Post. Available at: http://www.chinapost.com.tw/
20	East-West Center. Available at: http://www.eastwestcenter.org/
21	Japan Focus. Available at: http://www.japanfocus.org/
22	The Japan Times. Available at: http://www.japantimes.co.jp/
23	The Korea Herald. Available at: http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/
24	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Republic of Korea. Available at: http://www.mofat.go.kr/index.jsp
25	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. Available at: http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/
26	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan). Available at: http://www.mofa.gov.tw/webapp/mp?mp=6
27	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Available at: http://www.mofa.go.jp/index.html
28	National Bureau of Asian Research. Available at: http://www.nbr.org/
29	S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS, Singapore). Available at: http://www.rsis.edu.sg/

30	Teaching Terror. Available at: http://www.teachingterror.net/websites.htm
31	U.S. Department of State. Available at: http://www.state.gov/