

PIA4122: INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

International Organisations

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

4122

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

AIS4122 International Organisations

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course looks at the role of international organisations in relation to states and citizens around the world. In doing so, it builds on the theoretical and empirical material and methods of discovery introduced in PIA3123 Theories of Development.

We maintain a primary focus on Asia, so we will look closely at the Asian Development Bank, ASEAN and APEC, as well as some leading global organisations – the IMF, the World Bank, the OECD, and the G20. The principal focus is on the response of the international organisations to the changing global economy and the rise of Asia within it.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Understand the roles of the primary international and regional institutions (UN, World Bank, IMF, OECD, G20; ADB, ASEAN)	x		
2	Reflect critically upon the role played by these organisations in relation to citizens and states	x	x	
3	Apply discovery-related skills to the current practice of these organisations in specific countries and issue areas	x	x	x
4	Demonstrate those skills in oral presentation and in writing		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	1 - 4	Lectures	1, 2, 3, 4
2	1 - 4	Tutorial Presentation	1, 2, 3, 4
3	1 - 4	Essay	1, 2, 3, 4
4	1 - 4	Quiz	1, 2, 3, 4

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Group Tutorial Presentation	1, 2, 3, 4	25	Incorporating independent research from group members	No
2	Individual Tutorial Participation	1, 2, 3, 4	10	-	Yes
3	Essay	1, 2, 3, 4	35	Critical assessment of a topical policy area	No

4	Quiz	1, 2, 3, 4	30	Including one essay on a current issue 'live' followed during the course and individually researched (e.g. 2011-12 World Bank succession)	No
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Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Group Tutorial Presentation

Criterion

Students in groups to present on current affairs topics and facilitate Q-&-A sessions

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Presentation with excellent analysis, argument, research and organization.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Presentation with good analysis, argument, research and organization.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Presentation with adequate analysis, argument, research and organization.

Marginal (D)

Presentation with marginal analysis, argument, research and organization.

Failure (F)

Presentation with poor analysis, argument, research and organization

Assessment Task

2. Individual Tutorial Participation

Criterion

Students will work individually to present on current affairs topics and facilitate Q-&-A sessions

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Presentation with excellent analysis, argument, research and organization.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Presentation with good analysis, argument, research and organization.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Presentation with adequate analysis, argument, research and organization.

Marginal (D)

Presentation with marginal analysis, argument, research and organization.

Failure (F)

Presentation with poor analysis, argument, research and organization

Assessment Task

3. Essay

Criterion

Show ability to understand, analyse and organise a topical policy area with critical thinking

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent ability to understand, analyse and organise a topical policy area with critical thinking

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good ability to understand, analyse and organise a topical policy area with critical thinking

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate ability to understand, analyse and organise a topical policy area with critical thinking

Marginal (D)

Limited ability to understand, analyse and organise a topical policy area with critical thinking

Failure (F)

Little or no ability to understand, analyse and organise a topical policy area with critical thinking

Assessment Task

4. Quiz

Criterion

Assessment will be based on capacity to master the topics covered in class, a evidence of critical thinking and extensive knowledge base

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent knowledge of the topics covered in class, strong evidence of critical thinking and extensive knowledge base

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good knowledge of the topics covered in class, some evidence of critical thinking and good knowledge base

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate knowledge of the topics covered in class, adequate evidence of critical thinking and adequate knowledge bas

Marginal (D)

Limited knowledge of the topics covered in class, little evidence of critical thinking and marginal knowledge base

Failure (F)

Inadequate knowledge of the topics covered in class, no evidence of critical thinking and poor knowledge base

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Realism, Liberalism, UN, World Bank, IMF, WTO, ASEAN, APEC, technical regimes, transnational government networks, NATO, environmental treaties

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Margaret P. Karns and Karen A. Mingst, International Organisations: The Politics and Processes of Global Governance (2nd edition, Lynne Rienner, 2010)
2	Michael Barnett and Martha Finnemore, Rules for the World: International Organisations in Global Politics (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2004)
3	David Armstrong, Lorna Lloyd and John Redmond, International Organisation in World Politics, 3rd edition (Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2004)
4	Robert B. Zoellick, 'The End of the Third World: Modernizing Multilateralism for a Multipolar World', Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, 14 April 2010.
5	Ngairé Woods, 'Global Governance after the Financial Crisis: A New Multilateralism or the Last Gasp of the Great Powers?', Global Policy, 1, 1, January 2010.
6	World Bank, World Development Report 2009: Reshaping Economic Geography, 'Overview' (Washington: World Bank, 2009)
7	UNDP, Human Development Report 2010: The Real Wealth of Nations, Pathways to Human Development, 'Overview' (New York: UNDP, 2010).
8	Jo Marie Griesgraber, 'Reforms for Major New Roles of the International Monetary Fund? The IMF Post-G-20 Summit, Global Governance, 15, 2, 2009.
9	Centre for International Governance Innovation (www.cigionline.org)
10	United Nations, The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010, < http://www.undp.org/mdg/reports.shtml >