

# PIA4151: MANAGING NEW GLOBAL CHALLENGES

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Managing New Global Challenges

### Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

### Course Number

4151

### 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

GE3209 Managing New Global Challenges, PIA3151 Managing New Global Challenges

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course exposes students to in-depth, critical discussions of a series of issues that present great challenges to human societies in the age of globalization. Drawing on cutting-edge research by scholars in multiple disciplines in social sciences and humanities, this course acquaints students with analytical concepts and qualitative approaches to participate in the debates on these issues. These issues are grouped under four themes: 1) uneven development and poverty; 2) care work and population; 3) science, technology, and society; and 4) climate change and Anthropocene. Weekly class lecture and discussion covers a specific topic such as slums and gentrification, urban sanitation, family change, platform economy, medicalization of birth and death, human and nature, and human-animal relations. While these issues are discussed separately, they are also interrelated. Discussions draw on empirical case studies in local settings, but to comprehend the depth of the issues requires a global perspective and an interdisciplinary approach.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3	
1	Be exposed to key analytical concepts in designated themes in social sciences and humanities;	25	x	x	
2	Be acquainted with qualitative research approaches in social sciences and humanities;	25	x	x	
3	Develop skills to identify problems and analyze social phenomena critically and independently;	20	x	x	x
4	Develop skills to do teamwork;	15	x	x	x
5	Apply the above-mentioned concepts, research methods, and other skills to specific case studies of particular social phenomena.	15	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	Reading	Expose students to debates regarding specific issues; develop skills in reading and thinking in a critical manner.	1, 2, 3, 5
2	Lectures	Introduce and explain concepts, theories, histories, and debates through use of diverse pedagogical strategies.	1, 2, 3, 5

3	Discussions	Provide students with opportunities to synthesize readings, raise questions, communicate with others, and debate in a critical yet respectful manner.	1, 2, 3, 5	
4	Group Projects	An exercise for students to work as a team together, to identify a social phenomenon of shared interests under the designated themes, draw on readings and lectures, conduct research, and make arguments.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
5	Individual Essays	An exercise for students to synthesize, analyse, and evaluate arguments, preferably drawing on theories, debates and approaches from other courses.	1, 2, 3, 5	

**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	In-class discussion	1, 2, 3, 5	15	-	Yes
2	Discussion on the course website	1, 2, 3, 5	15	-	Yes
3	Group Projects	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	40	-	No
4	Individual Essay	1, 2, 3, 5	30	-	No

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Examination (%)**

0

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

1. In-class discussion

**Criterion**

1.1 Familiarity with readings and relevant concepts

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Limited

**Failure (F)**

Not even reaching marginal levels

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**Assessment Task**

1. In-class discussion

**Criterion**

1.2 Participation in discussion and other learning activities.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Active and engaging

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Significant participation

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate level of participation

**Marginal (D)**

Occasional participation

**Failure (F)**

No participation

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**Assessment Task**

2. Discussion on the course website

**Criterion**

2.1 Familiarity with readings and relevant concepts

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Limited

**Failure (F)**

Not even reaching marginal levels

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**Assessment Task**

2. Discussion on the course website

**Criterion**

2.2 Participation in discussion and other learning activities.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Active and engaging

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Significant participation

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate level of participation

**Marginal (D)**

Occasional participation

**Failure (F)**

No participation

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**Assessment Task**

3. Individual Essay

**Criterion**

3.1 Summarize relevant readings and discussions.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Not even reaching marginal levels

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**Assessment Task**

3. Individual Essay

**Criterion**

3.2 Utilize analytical concepts to evaluate arguments;

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Not even reaching marginal levels

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**Assessment Task**

3. Individual Essay

**Criterion**

3.3 Draw on insights and research skills introduced in this and other courses to develop one' s own argument;

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Not even reaching marginal levels

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**Assessment Task**

3. Individual Essay

**Criterion**

3.4 Capacity to articulate one' s ideas in a logical and empirically grounded manner.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Not even reaching marginal levels

**Assessment Task**

4. Group Projects

**Criterion**

4.1 Utilize analytical concepts in readings and lectures to ask questions about social phenomena in our daily lives;

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Not even reaching marginal levels

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**Assessment Task**

4. Group Projects

**Criterion**

4.2 Identify and synthesize relevant studies of the chosen social phenomena;

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Not even reaching marginal levels

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**Assessment Task**

4. Group Projects

**Criterion**

4.3 Ability to design a qualitative research plan and carry out research;

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Not even reaching marginal levels

**Assessment Task**

## 4. Group Projects

**Criterion**

4.4 Ability to analyze empirical data and make a logical argument.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Not even reaching marginal levels

**Part III Other Information****Keyword Syllabus**

Globalization; challenges; uneven development; poverty; care work; population; science, technology, and society; climate change; Anthropocene; global perspective; social sciences and humanities; interdisciplinary approach.

**Reading List****Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	Bourgeois, Philippe. 2002. "Understanding Inner-City Poverty: Resistance and Self-Destruction under U.S. Apartheid." In <i>Exotic No More: Anthropology at the Frontline</i> , edited by Jeremy MacClancy, 15. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
2	Ling, Minhua. 2021. "Container housing: Formal informality and deterritorialised home-making amid bulldozer urbanism in Shanghai." <i>Urban Studies</i> 58 (6): 1141-1157.
3	Fraser, Nancy. 2016. "Contradictions of Capital and Care." <i>New Left Review</i> 100 (July/August): 99-117.

4	Ochiai, Emiko. 2014. "Care Diamonds and Welfare Regimes in East and Southeast Asian Societies." In <i>Transformation of the Intimate and the Public in Asian Modernity</i> , edited by Emiko Ochiai and Leo Aoi Hosoya, 166-189. Leiden: Brill.
5	Folbre, Nancy. 2018. <i>Developing Care: Recent Research on the Care Economy and Economic Development</i> . International Development Research Centre.
6	Inhorn, Marcia C. 2021. "The Egg Freezing Revolution?: Gender, Education, and Reproductive Waithood in the United States." In <i>Waithood: Gender, Education, and Global Delays in Marriage and Childbearing</i> , edited by Marcia C. Inhorn and Nancy Joan Smith-Hefner, 362-390. New York: Berghahn.
7	McFarlane, Colin, Renu Desai, and Steve Graham. 2014. "Informal Urban Sanitation: Everyday Life, Poverty, and Comparison." <i>Annals of the Association of American Geographers</i> 104 (5): 989-1011.
8	Rosenblat, Alex. 2018. <i>Uberland: How Algorithms Are Rewriting the Rules of Work</i> . Oakland, CA: University of California Press (Selected pages)
9	Anand, Nikhil. 2017. <i>Hydraulic City: Water and the Infrastructures of Citizenship in Mumbai</i> . Durham: Duke University Press (selected chapters).
10	Smith, Neil. 2002. "New Globalism, New Urbanism: Gentrification as Global Urban Strategy." <i>Antipode</i> 34 (3): 427-450.
11	Descola, Philippe. 2013. <i>Beyond Nature and Culture</i> . Translated by Janet Lloyd. Chicago; London: The University of Chicago Press (Selected pages).
12	Santos, Gonçalo, and Suzanne Gottschang. 2020. "Rethinking Reproductive Technologies and Modernities in Time and Space." <i>Technology and Culture</i> 61 (2): 549-558.
13	Escobar, Arturo. 2012 [1995]. <i>Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World</i> . Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press (selected pages)

### Additional Readings

Title	
1	Hass, Benjamin. 2017 "My Week in Lucky House: The horror of Hong Kong' s coffin homes." <i>The Guardian</i> (August 29)
2	Roy, Ananya, Genevieve Negrón-Gonzales, Kweku Opoku-Agyemang, and Clare Vineeta Talwalker, eds. 2016. <i>Encountering Poverty: Thinking and Acting in an Unequal World</i> . Oakland, CA: University of California Press (selected pages).
3	#i#ek, Slavoj. 2014. "Fat-free chocolate and absolutely no smoking: why our guilt about consumption is all-consuming," <i>The Guardian</i> , May 21. <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2014/may/21/prix-pictet-photography-prize-consumption-slavoj-zizek">https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2014/may/21/prix-pictet-photography-prize-consumption-slavoj-zizek</a>
4	Roy, Ananya. 2005. "Urban Informality." <i>Journal of the American Planning Association</i> 71 (2): 147-158.
5	Escobar, Arturo, Eeva Berglund, Peter Brosius, David A. Cleveland, Jonathan D. Hill, Dorothy L. Hodgson, Enrique Leff, Kay Milton, Dianne E. Rocheleau, and Susan C. Stonich. 1999. "After Nature: Steps to an Antiessentialist Political Ecology [and Comments and Replies]." <i>Current Anthropology</i> 40 (1): 1-30.
6	Morozov, Evgeny. 2013. <i>To Save Everything, Click here: The Folly of Technological Solutionism</i> . London: Penguin Books Ltd (Selected pages).
7	Desai, Renu, Colin McFarlane, and Stephen Graham. 2015. "The Politics of Open Defecation: Informality, Body, and Infrastructure in Mumbai." <i>Antipode</i> 47 (1):98-120.
8	Greenough, Paul R., and Anna L. Tsing, eds. 2003. <i>Nature in the Global South: environmental Projects in South and Southeast Asia</i> . Durham: Duke University Press (Selected pages).