

GE3207: COMPARING CAPITALISMS IN EAST ASIA AND THE WEST

Effective Term

Semester A 2026/27

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Comparing Capitalisms in East Asia and the West

Subject Code

GE - Gateway Education

Course Number

3207

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

GE Area (Primary)

Area 2 - Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

AIS3126 International Political Economy

PIA3126 International Political Economy

Exclusive Courses

This course is not for students majored in Asian and International Studies (ASIS) or International Relations and Global Affairs (IRGA)

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course introduces students to the comparative capitalism (CC) literature that helps to answer questions about the distribution of wealth and power as well as industrial specialization across advanced economies. The first half of the course will examine how different organizational arrangements for finance, labour representation, workforce training, business cooperation and state structures have led to distinctly different outcomes in North America and Europe. The second half of the course will examine the political economies of Japan, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan using the CC analytic lens. By comparing East and West, this course hopes to re-examine CC assumptions about the roles politics and institutions play shape industrial specialization, political power and economic equality, and their durability over time. Placing wealthy East Asia in comparative context will also shed light on the differences and similarities among East Asian economies and with the various types of capitalism in the West.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	To identify key issues within the field of Comparative Capitalism	x	x	x
2	To use advanced theoretical approaches to construct models for understanding East Asian political economies	x	x	x
3	To assess case studies within the issues and use the theories to predict possible outcomes	x	x	x
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 Comparative Capitalism and East Asian political economies	1, 2, 3, 4

2	Class discussions	in-class discussions will engage students in debates and explorations on the organizations of various capitalist economies	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 short 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	25	-	No
3	Quizzes (one mid-term 20% and one final 25%)	1, 2, 3, 4	45	-	No
4	Class Report(One 500-word report)	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. Quizzes (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, organization and demonstration of knowledge

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent organisation and quality of material

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good organisation and quality of material

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate organisation and quality of material

Marginal (D)

Marginal organisation and quality of material

Failure (F)

Poor organisation and quality of material

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Nil

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	Hall, P.A. and D. Soskice (2001). Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
2	Vogel, S.K. (2018). Marketcraft: How Governments Make Markets Work, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
3	Wong, J. (2011). Betting on Biotech: Innovation and the Limits of Asia' s Developmental State, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press
4	Ornston, Darius. (2018). Good Governance Gone Bad. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Lee, S. S.-Y. (2016) 'Institutional Legacy of State Corporatism in De-Industrial Labour Markets: A Comparative Study of Japan, South Korea and Taiwan' Socio-Economic Review 14(1): pp. 73-95.
2	Wang, J. (2018) 'Innovation and Government Intervention' Research Policy 47(2): pp. 399-412.
3	Kasza, G.J. (2006) One World of Welfare: Japan in Comparative Perspective, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
4	Iversen, Torben and David Soskice. (2019). Prosperity and Democracy. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Annex (for GE courses only)

A. Please specify the Gateway Education Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs) that the course is aligned to and relate them to the CILOs stated in Part II, Section 2 of this form:

Please indicate which CILO(s) is/are related to this PILO, if any (can be more than one CILOs in each PILO)

PILO 1: Demonstrate the capacity for self-directed learning

3, 4

PILO 2: Explain the basic methodologies and techniques of inquiry of the arts and humanities, social sciences, business, and science and technology

1, 2, 4

PILO 3: Demonstrate critical thinking skills

2, 3, 4

PILO 4: Interpret information and numerical data

3

PILO 5: Produce structured, well-organised and fluent text

1, 2, 3, 4

PILO 6: Demonstrate effective oral communication skills

3

PILO 7: Demonstrate an ability to work effectively in a team

3

PILO 8: Recognise important characteristics of their own culture(s) and at least one other culture, and their impact on global issues

1, 2

PILO 9: Value ethical and socially responsible actions

1, 2

PILO 10: Demonstrate the attitude and/or ability to accomplish discovery and/or innovation

2, 4

B. Please select an assessment task for collecting evidence of student achievement for quality assurance purposes. Please retain at least one sample of student achievement across a period of three years.

Selected Assessment Task

The assessment task will be the final quiz as it covers the entirety of the course and requires the students to demonstrate all four CILOs.