

# PIA3031: POLITICAL DYNAMICS IN ASIA

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Political Dynamics in Asia

### Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

### Course Number

3031

### 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

AIS3031 Political Dynamics in Asia

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course aims to strengthen students' theoretical understanding and empirical knowledge of Asian politics, focusing specifically on East and Southeast Asia. Lectures cover a wide range of key thematic issues such as nation-building,

state formation, authoritarianism, democracy, political behavior, political institutions, political culture, identity politics, economic development, and welfare states. The focus of the course is twofold. First, these themes will be analyzed with a strong comparative focus that allows students to contextualize and understand Asian experiences in the light of broader theoretical and disciplinary debates. Second, by exposure to illustrations featuring various Asian cases and tutorial assignments, students will widen their knowledge of the history, society and politics of specific Asian countries. The knowledge acquired in this course will help students conceptualize and critically evaluate contemporary political dynamics in Hong Kong, Asia and elsewhere.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Examine how the various thematic issues covered in the course are conceptualized and discussed in scholarly research	15	x	x	
2	Assess and critique various theoretical and methodological approaches to study the thematic issues covered in the course	30	x	x	
3	Evaluate the role of country-specific history, social development and institutions in shaping contemporary political outcomes	25	x	x	x
4	Analyze political development in Asia from a comparative perspective and locate Asian experiences within the global context	30		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	Lectures	Students will learn concepts and theories, and illustrate them with examples from East and Southeast Asia	1, 2, 3
2	Class participation	Students will benefit from attending all lectures and tutorials, preparing for class by reading required materials and participating actively to class discussion when possible	1, 2, 3

3	Class section	All students will work in groups to a class section on a topic and country of their choice	2, 3, 4	
4	Midterm Test	A test including multiple choice and identification questions will allow students to demonstrate their knowledge of the course material	2, 3	
5	Final Test	Students will write an essay-based test in one of the final weeks to ascertain their knowledge of the material covered in lectures and their ability to apply that knowledge to a specific Asian case	1, 2, 3, 4	

**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Class participation	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	Yes
2	Class section	2, 3, 4	25	-	Yes
3	Midterm Test	2, 3	20	-	No
4	Final Test	1, 2, 3, 4	35	-	No

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Examination (%)**

0

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

Class participation

**Criterion**

Students are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials, and to participate actively, especially in tutorials.

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

Demonstrates excellent level of engagement with lecture and reading material. Participation in tutorials is above average.

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

Demonstrates good level of engagement with lecture and reading material. Participation in tutorials is about average.

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

Demonstrates satisfactory level of engagement with lecture and reading material. Participation in tutorials is below average.

**Marginal (D)**

Demonstrates poor level of engagement with lecture and reading material. Participation in tutorials is well below average.

**Failure (F)**

Indicates that through poor learning or lack of effort, the student has failed to maintain even minimal attendance and participation levels.

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**Assessment Task**

Midterm Test

**Criterion**

Students need to possess solid factual knowledge of Asian political history and understand concepts introduced in class

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

Excellent knowledge of the materials covered in the course.

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

Good knowledge of the materials covered in the course.

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

Limited knowledge of the materials covered in the course.

**Marginal (D)**

Substantially flawed knowledge of the materials covered in the course.

**Failure (F)**

Insufficient knowledge of the materials covered in the course.

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**Assessment Task**

Final Test

**Criterion**

Need to master the topics covered in class, and a capacity to critically reflect on them.

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

Excellent knowledge of the topics covered in class and capacity to critically integrate lecture and reading material into the essay question.

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

Good knowledge of the topics covered in class and capacity to critically integrate lecture and reading material into the essay question.

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

Limited knowledge of the topics covered in class and capacity to critically integrate lecture and reading material into the essay question.

**Marginal (D)**

Poor knowledge of the topics covered in class and capacity to critically integrate lecture and reading material into the essay question.

**Failure (F)**

Little or no knowledge of the topics covered in class and capacity to critically reflect on them.

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**Assessment Task**

Class Section

**Criterion**

Need to show knowledge of the country studied, the ability to discuss its experience from the theoretical perspectives learned in the course, to present research effectively, and to lead discussion appropriately.

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

Excellent knowledge of the country studied, the ability to discuss its experience from the theoretical perspectives learned in the course, to present research effectively, and to lead discussion appropriately.

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

Good knowledge of the country studied, the ability to discuss its experience from the theoretical perspectives learned in the course, to present research effectively, and to lead discussion appropriately.

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

Sufficient knowledge of the country studied, the ability to discuss its experience from the theoretical perspectives learned in the course, to present research effectively, and to lead discussion appropriately.

**Marginal (D)**

Scant knowledge of the country studied, the ability to discuss its experience from the theoretical perspectives learned in the course, to present research effectively, and to lead discussion appropriately.

**Failure (F)**

Little or no knowledge of the country studied, the ability to discuss its experience from the theoretical perspectives learned in the course, to present research effectively, and to lead discussion appropriately.

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

Asian politics, nation-building, state formation, authoritarianism, democracy, political behavior, political parties, political institutions, political culture, identity politics, economic development.

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

	Title
1	Cheng, T.J. and Chu, Y.H. eds., 2017. Routledge Handbook of Democratization in East Asia. Routledge.
2	Robison, R. ed., 2012. Routledge handbook of Southeast Asian politics. Routledge.
3	Case, W. ed., 2015. Routledge handbook of Southeast Asian democratization. Routledge.

**Additional Readings**

	Title
1	Bell, Daniel A, 2006. Beyond Liberal Democracy: Political Thinking for an East Asian Context. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
2	Case, W., 2006. Manipulative Skills: How do Rulers Control the Electoral Arena?. In: A. Schedler, ed., Electoral Authoritarianism: The Dynamics of Unfree Competition. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, pp. 95-112.
3	Chu, Yun-han, Larry Diamond, Andrew J. Nathan, and Doh Chull Shin, 2008. How East Asians View Democracy. New York: Columbia University Press.
4	Dalton, R. J., Chu, Y. H. & Shin, D. C., 2007. Introduction: Parties, Party Choice, and Partisanship in East Asia. Journal of East Asian Studies, Volume 7, pp. 177-84.

5	Fung, Edmund S.K. and Steven Drakeley, 2014. <i>Democracy in Eastern Asia: Issues, Problems and Challenges in a Region of Diversity</i> . Oxon and New York: Routledge.
6	Chu, Yin-wah and Wong, Siu-lun, 2010. <i>East Asia's New Democracies: Deepening, Reversal, Non-liberal Alternatives</i> . London: Routledge.
7	Diamond, Larry Jay, Plattner, Marc F., and Chu, Yun-han, 2013. <i>Democracy in East Asia: A New Century</i> . Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press.
8	Reilly, B., 2007. Electoral Systems and Party Systems in East Asia. <i>Journal of East Asian Studies</i> , Volume 7, pp. 185-202.
9	Izuhara, M. ed., 2013. <i>Handbook on East Asian social policy</i> . Edward Elgar Publishing.
10	Beeson, M. and Stubbs, R. eds., 2012. <i>Routledge handbook of Asian regionalism</i> . Routledge.
11	Carroll, T., Hameiri, S. and Jones, L. eds., 2020. <i>The Political Economy of Southeast Asia: Politics and Uneven Development Under Hyperglobalisation</i> . Springer Nature.
12	Croissant, A. and Lorenz, P., 2018. <i>Comparative Politics of Southeast Asia. An Introduction into Government and Politics</i> . Cham: Springer.