

PIA3033: CULTURE AND CHANGE IN ASIA

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Culture and Change in Asia

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

3033

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

AIS3033 Culture and Change in Asia

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course serves as a general introduction to Asian societies. No previous knowledge is expected. Students will explore various Asian societies and their cultural, social, and political landscape. We will talk about wide-ranging topics, including identity, ethnicity, gender, migration, national memory, political culture, and pop culture.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Distinguish and evaluate emerging dynamics and patterns of social, cultural, and political change in Asia	20	x		
2	Critically analyze Asian societies and cultures	20	x	x	x
3	Apply learned concepts to analyze nuanced features of social and cultural change in Asian societies	20	x	x	x
4	Develop individual research paper or group projects	20	x	x	x
5	Demonstrate the ability to organize data and accomplish research writing	20	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	Students will learn from lectures and tutorials	Lectures will present key concepts, theories, and cases, and tutorials will involve more in-depth discussions of specific cases	1	
2	Students will engage in small group discussions	Students will discuss key concepts, theories, and cases with their peers and share their ideas with the lecturer	2	

3	Students will conduct research on a chosen topic and present their findings	Students will form groups to conduct research on a chosen topic and write a research paper. The paper will require a clear, sufficiently narrow research question and a sufficient engagement with scholarly sources.	3	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Quiz	1	50	Students will take two quizzes in class to show their understanding of course material.	No
2	Group research paper	3, 4, 5	30	Students will write a research paper on topics related to the course.	No
3	In-class discussions and tutorials	1, 2, 3	20	Students will study reading materials and engage in team discussion regarding various topics in the course.	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Quizzes

Criterion

Show ability to identify and describe the significance of theories, concepts, events, persons, and entities covered in the course

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent ability to identify and describe the significance of theories, concepts, events, persons, and entities covered in the course

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good ability to identify and describe the significance of theories, concepts, events, persons, and entities covered in the course

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate ability to identify and describe the significance of theories, concepts, events, persons, and entities covered in the course

Marginal (D)

Limited ability to identify and describe the significance of theories, concepts, events, persons, and entities covered in the course

Failure (F)

Poor ability to identify and describe the significance of theories, concepts, events, persons, and entities covered in the course

Assessment Task

Group research paper

Criterion

Original content and good research material and good understanding of existing literature

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Highly original content, appropriate use of concepts, and good arguments substantiated by evidence

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good research effort and application of learned concepts

Fair (C+, C, C-)

A satisfactory attempt to conduct original research

Marginal (D)

Below-average research and writing

Failure (F)

Poor research with little understanding of learned material

Assessment Task

In-class discussions and tutorials

Criterion

Show ability to understand and interrogate reading materials and conduct simple research related to the course content

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent ability to understand and interrogate reading materials and conduct simple research related to the course content

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good ability to understand and interrogate reading materials and conduct simple research related to the course content

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate ability to understand and interrogate reading materials and conduct simple research related to the course content

Marginal (D)

Limited ability to understand and interrogate reading materials and conduct simple research related to the course content

Failure (F)

Poor ability to understand and interrogate reading materials and conduct simple research related to the course content

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Asian societies, Asian politics and society, Asian culture

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Orr, James Joseph. The victim as hero: Ideologies of peace and national identity in postwar Japan. University of Hawaii Press, 2001.
2	Constable, Nicole. Maid to order in Hong Kong: Stories of migrant workers. Cornell University Press, 2007.
3	Kingston, Jeff. Nationalism in Asia: A history since 1945. John Wiley & Sons, 2016.
4	Mackerras, C ., ed. 2003 . Ethnicity in Asia . New York: RoutledgeCurzon.
5	Immerwahr, Daniel. How to hide an empire: A short history of the greater United States. Random House, 2019.
6	Asia: Cultural Politics in the Global Age, Palgrave, 2001.
7	Lie, John. K-pop: Popular music, cultural amnesia, and economic innovation in South Korea. Univ of California Press, 2014.