

PIA3112: CONFLICT AND RESOLUTION

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Conflict and Resolution

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

3112

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

SA/POL3112 Political Participation: Contentious Politics / POL3112 Political Participation and Social Movements

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

Governments and structures of power exist in relation to civil societies, citizens and non-citizens alike. This course explores how individuals in civil society form groupings to influence political agendas outside formal systems of inclusion (elections,

political parties). The course, draws on political contexts from self-professed liberal democracies through to totalitarian regimes to explore the space for and nature of civil dissent and how elites shape the development, aims and activities of civil society groups. People have complex relations with their governments, from adoration or compliance through to forms of disapproval. Disapproval may take active forms from noncompliance to peaceful protests through to violent resistance. The course, will explore key theories and concepts of political participation and examine some of the most important societal movements in the contemporary world. Throughout the course, students will be challenged to think carefully about how human actions and ideas are shaping our world and how others attempt to shape it for them.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Discover various forms of political engagement and dissent in different contexts		x	x	
2	Understand what motivates individuals and groups to act, and how they organise		x	x	
3	Analyse the relation between civil society actors and political elite interests		x	x	x
4	Critically assess the relation between consent and control within civil society and in relation to political elites.		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 and in-class discussion	(a) To introduce theories and concepts about political participation and social movements. (b) Students discuss and share their ideas with each other and the lecturer.	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	Response paper	Students should review required readings of a teaching week and share their reflection on authors' argument.	1, 2, 3, 4	

3	Individual paper	Students need to write an individual paper about 2,500 words	1, 2, 3, 4	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Lecture and in-class discussion	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	No
2	Response paper (about 1,200 words)	1, 2, 3, 4	30	-	Yes
3	Individual paper (about 2,500 words)	1, 2, 3, 4	50	-	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. In-class discussion and debate

Criterion

Attendance (to take part in the discussion); understanding of the lecture; willingness to discuss/debate.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

0-1 absence; Excellent understanding of political participation and social movement(s). Excellent critical reasoning skills and communication skills.

Good (B+, B, B-)

2 absences; Fairly good understanding of political participation and social movement(s). Fairly good critical reasoning skills and communication skills.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

3 absences; Rudimentary understanding of political participation and social movement(s). Rudimentary critical reasoning skills and communication skills.

Marginal (D)

4 absences; Weak understanding of political participation and social movement(s). Weak critical reasoning skills and communication skills.

Failure (F)

5 absences or more; Very poor understanding of political participation and social movement(s). Very poor critical reasoning skills and communication skills.

Assessment Task

2. Response paper

Criterion

Discuss a topic based on comprehensive understanding of relevant theories and concepts drawn from selected readings.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Consistent perceptive and critical engagement with the selected topic. Comprehensive understanding of the readings.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Frequent preceptive and critical engagement with the selected topic. Good understanding of the readings.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Some critical engagement with the selected topic. Fair understanding of the readings.

Marginal (D)

Occasionally critical engagement with the selected topic. Poor understanding of the readings.

Failure (F)

No critical engagement with the selected topic. Not familiar with the readings.

Assessment Task

3. Individual essay

Criterion

Understanding of the readings; originality of ideas; clarity and organisation of ideas.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Great familiarity with the relevant readings, and excellent critical reasoning skills.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Satisfactory familiarity with the relevant readings, and fairly good critical reasoning skills.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Basic familiarity with the relevant readings, and basic critical reasoning skills.

Marginal (D)

Poor understanding of the relevant readings, and weak critical reasoning skills.

Failure (F)

Not familiar with the relevant readings, and very poor critical reasoning skills.

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Political participation, social movements, regime types, incorporation and resistance, collective identity, transnational movements, revolutions.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Barker ,C, Cox, L, Krinsky, J & Nilsen, JG 2013. Marxism and Social Movements 2013, Brill, Leiden.
2	Tilly, C, & Tarrow, S 2015, Contentious Politics, Oxford University Press, Incorporated, New York.

3	Savyasaachi & Kumar R. eds. 2014. Social Movements: transformative shifts and turning points, Abingdon, Routledge.
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Additional Readings

	Title
1	Kaim, M. 2021. Rethinking Modes of Political Participation. Democratic Theory 8, 1, 50-70
2	Smelser, N.J., 1962. Theory of collective behaviour, London, Routledge. Ch 5.
3	McCarthy, J. & Zald, M. 2001. Ch. 25 in Turner J ed. Handbook of sociological theory, New York, Kluwer Academic.
4	Morris, A. D., & Braine, N. 2001. Social Movements and Oppositional Consciousness. In J. Mansbridge, & A. Morris (Eds.), Oppositional Consciousness: The Subjective Roots of Social Protest University of Chicago Press.
5	Staggenborg, S. 2016 Ch 9. Social Movements, 2nd Edn. New York, Oxford University Press