

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Course Code / Title** : HA4022 International Politics of the Asia-Pacific

**Pre-requisites** : HA1003

**No. of AUs.** : 4

**Contact Hours** : 52

### **Course Aims**

The aims of the module are to develop knowledge and understanding of the nature of international politics in the Asia-Pacific, the conceptual and theoretical issues relating to those politics, equip students with basic skills to analyze foreign policy of major powers and explain the role of regional institutions and small states, and enhance communication skills.

### **Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)**

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Discuss central concepts relevant to international politics in the region;
2. Apply theories of international relations to analyse the dynamics of Asia Pacific politics.
3. Analyse the foreign policy of major powers in the Asia-Pacific
4. Explain the roles of ASEAN and small states in shaping regional architecture
5. Discuss and debate effectively as an individual and as a team.

### **Course Content**

- Week 1: The session introduces students to Asia Pacific region (geography, current state of affairs, and its relevance in constructing a new world order)
- Week 2: The session introduces realism and liberalism theories and their application in the analysis of international politics of the Asia Pacific region
- Week 3: The session introduces constructivism and pragmatism theories and their application in the analysis of international politics of the Asia Pacific region
- Week 4: The session discusses three questions: What constitute China's foreign policy interests towards the Asia-Pacific? Is China a status-quo or an expansionist power? Is China a threat to the region?
- Week 5: The session discusses three questions: To what extent has the U.S. role changed since the end of the Cold War? What are the main US foreign policy strategies towards the region? Will the US remain the Pacific power?

- Week 6: The session discusses three questions: What is a “civilian power”? Can Japan play an active security role in the region? To what extent does the legacy of history still shape Japan’s international relations in the Asia Pacific region?
- Week 7: The session discusses three questions: What is regionalism? What are the strengths and weakness of ASEAN? How does ASEAN fit within the wider architecture of the Asia Pacific regionalism?
- Week 8: The session discusses three questions: What are the main threats to regional security? How to prevent, manage, and resolve regional conflicts? What is a rules-based international order?
- Week 9: The seminar focuses on the rise of China.
- Week 10: The seminar focuses on China-Japan relations.
- Week 11: The seminar focuses on China-US relations.
- Week 12: The seminar focuses on ASEAN and regional architecture
- Week 13: The session discusses three questions: How do we define small state? Can a small state have an effective diplomacy and foreign policy? How can a small survive and evolve in a dynamic and complex international system?

### **Course Assessment**

Class Participation	: 10%
Seminar Report 1 (1500 words)	: 20%
Seminar Report 2 (3000 words)	: 45%
Reflective Essay (500 words)	: 5%
Quiz (1 and 2)	: 10%
Debate	: 10%
<b>Total</b>	-----
	<b>100%</b>