

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Course Code / Title** : HA4039 Knowledge Politics

**Pre-requisites** : HA1001, HA1012

**No. of AUs.** : 4

**Contact Hours** : 52

### **Course Aims**

This course will introduce you to the politics of knowledge through the analytical lenses of international relations and public policy. Higher education is often considered the next frontier in the knowledge economy race to attract, train, and retain talent. At the same time, it is central to the cultivation of national identity, sensitivity, and future. In this course, we take as a point of departure that higher education straddles several key societal pillars that have difficult-to-reconcile objectives: culture (higher education as inculcating students with a sense of civic responsibility), market (higher education as training the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators; higher education as a form of exportable services), and politics (knowledge collaboration and exchange as a form of diplomacy; knowledge generated from the higher education sector as policy solutions for meeting the world's Grand Challenges). By taking this course, you will learn that the ways in which higher education is configured and reconfigured thus constitutes a window into the overall social, economic, and political stability of a state and region, as well as their likely future trajectories.

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

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

1. Describe and explain the evolution of higher education institutions over time;
2. Describe and explain the roles of knowledge and competition in shaping global governance, international relations, and institutional governance;
3. Describe and explain the role of higher education in social mobility and immobility;
4. Describe and explain the role of international organisations in higher education development and governance;
5. Describe and explain the phenomenon of higher education regionalisms, particularly their different governance structures around the world;
6. Synthesise knowledge on knowledge politics and articulate them in a cogent and accessible way, both orally and in writing.

## Course Content

Week	Themes
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| 1  | Introduction: What is Knowledge Politics?                    |
| 2  | History of Universities                                      |
| 3  | Knowledge Diplomacy  |
| 4  | Global University Rankings                                   |
| 5  | Talent Competition and Brain Drain                           |
| 6  | Higher Education and Social Mobility                         |
| 7  | Institutional Strategy Memo ( <i>student presentations</i> ) |
| 8  | <i>Mid-semester review week</i>                              |
| 9  | Higher Education and International Organisations             |
| 10 | Higher Education Regionalism (I): Europe                     |
| 11 | Higher Education Regionalism (II): Asia                      |
| 12 | Contemporary Issues: COVID and Higher Education              |
| 13 | Review: Knowledge Politics ( <i>student presentations</i> )  |

## Course Assessment

CA1 – Participation	: 20%
CA2 – Discussion leaders and presentation of weekly readings	: 20%
CA3 – Institutional Policy Memo	: 30%
CA4 – Research essay	: 30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>-----</b>
	<b>100%</b>