

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MIPA)

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the Master of International and Public Affairs in the academic year 2017-18 and thereafter.

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

Admission requirements

IPA 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the Master of International and Public Affairs, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) shall hold a Bachelor's degree of this University or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
- (c) for candidates who are seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b); and
- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

IPA 2. An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

Qualifying examination

IPA 3.

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent.
 - (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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Award of degree

IPA 4. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of International and Public Affairs, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
 - (b) complete the curriculum as prescribed in the syllabuses and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations as set out below
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Period of study

IPA 5. The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or four academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

Completion of curriculum

IPA 6. To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (b) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work of 8 courses as prescribed in the syllabuses;
 - (b) shall complete and present a satisfactory capstone project on a subject within the approved fields of study; and
 - (c) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.
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Capstone project

IPA 7. Candidates shall complete a capstone project in accordance with the regulations set out in the MIPA Programme. The title of capstone project shall be submitted for approval by December 1 of the final academic year of study and the capstone project shall be submitted by not later than May 31 of the final academic year of study. Candidates shall submit a statement that the capstone project represents their own work.

Assessment

IPA 8. Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.

IPA 9. Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.

IPA 10. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in not more than half of the number of courses, not including the capstone project, taken in any semester, may be permitted to make up for the failed course(s) in the following manner:

- (a) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
- (b) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
- (c) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
- (d) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

IPA 11. Candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory capstone project may be permitted to submit a new or revised capstone project within a specified period.

IPA 12. Candidates who are unable because of their illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on a form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that semester's examinations, and the provision made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

IPA 13. There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

IPA 14. Candidates who

- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-assessment/re-examination in any failed course(s) or to repeat any failed course(s) or take another course in lieu under Regulation IPA 10; or
 - (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any course(s) at a second attempt; or
 - (c) are not permitted to submit a new or revised capstone project under Regulation IPA 11; or
 - (d) have failed to submit a satisfactory new or revised capstone project under Regulation IPA 11; or
 - (e) have exceeded the maximum period of registration
- may be required to discontinue their studies.
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Grading system

IPA 15. Individual courses should be graded according to the following grading system:

<i>Grade</i>		<i>Standard</i>	<i>Grade Point</i>
A+	}	Excellent	4.3
A			4.0
A-			3.7
B+	}	Good	3.3
B			3.0
B-			2.7
C+	}	Satisfactory	2.3
C			2.0
C-			1.7
D+	}	Pass	1.3
D			1.0
F		Fail	0

Classification of awards

IPA 16. On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CURRICULUM

Most of the core courses are taught in the evening or on Saturdays. Some courses may be offered in a 4-week-long intensified format in addition to the usual 12-week format. To receive the award of Master of International and Public Affairs, candidates have to complete 8 courses (6 credits each) and a capstone project (12 credits), with a total of 60 credits. The 8 courses include 2 compulsory courses, 4 core courses plus the equivalent of 2 courses from the following options:

- (a) Two more courses (core or elective); or
- (b) Overseas study/internship (equivalent to one or two elective courses); or
- (c) Graduate exchange program with George Washington University (GWU), the Elliott School of International Affairs (students will have to take 9 credit hours of coursework at GWU to fulfill the U.S. residency requirement, with the understanding that 3 credit hours of coursework at GWU is equivalent to 1 MIPA elective course);
- (d) Graduate exchange program with Seoul National University (SNU), Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS); or
- (e) Graduate exchange program with Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva (GIIDSG).

Compulsory courses

Candidates shall complete all courses from the following list:

- POLI6004. Theories of international relations (6 credits)
- POLI6006. International political economy (6 credits)

Capstone project (Compulsory)

Candidates shall complete the course from the following list:

- POLI6031. Capstone project (12 credits)

Core courses

Candidates shall complete 4-6 core courses from the following list:

- POLI6005. International organizations (6 credits)
- POLI6007. International relations in the Asia-Pacific (6 credits)
- POLI6008. Understanding global problems: theory and practice (6 credits)
- POLI6010. Chinese foreign policy (6 credits)
- POLI6029. War and armed conflict: philosophical issues (6 credits)
- POLI6032. International Law (6 credits)
- POLI6033. Cross-Taiwan Strait relations (6 credits)
- POLI6035. War and strategy (6 credits)
- POLI6036. Special topics in international relations (I) (6 credits)
- POLI6037. Special topics in international relations (II) (6 credits)
- POLI6038. Special topics in international political economy (I) (6 credits)
- POLI6039. Special topics in international political economy (II) (6 credits)
- POLI6040. Special topics in Asia Pacific international relations (I) (6 credits)
- POLI6041. Special topics in Asia Pacific international relations (II) (6 credits)
- POLI6042. Special topics in global and regional governance (I) (6 credits)
- POLI6043. Special topics in global and regional governance (II) (6 credits)
- POLI6044. World energy issues: international political economy and security (6 credits)

- POLI6045. The politics of global inequality (6 credits)
- POLI6046. Political and sovereign risk assessment (6 credits)
- POLI8004. Government and law (course from Master of Public Administration Programme) (6 credits)
- POLI8014. NGOs and governance (course from Master of Public Administration Programme) (6 credits)

Elective courses

Candidates are allowed to complete not more than 2 elective courses from the following list:

- POLI6021. Overseas study at Peking University: “Current issues in China’s international relations” (6 credits)
- POLI6023. Overseas study at Johns Hopkins University: SAIS programme (6 credits)
- POLI6024. Overseas study at Johns Hopkins University: SAIS programme (12 credits, 2 courses equivalent)
- POLI6030. Overseas study at George Washington University: U.S. foreign policy summer programme (6 credits)
- POLI6034. Overseas study at Seoul National University: Seminar on area studies – East Asia in the modern world (6 credits)

Candidates are required to pay additional costs to take the above overseas study courses (POLI6021, POLI6023, POLI6024, POLI6030, and POLI6034).

Elective courses can also be chosen from the selected courses offered by the following Departments subject to the entry requirements. MIPA students may have to pay appropriate course fees as decided by host departments for these elective courses.

- Department of Law, HKU
- Department of Politics and Public Administration, HKU (Master of Public Administration Programme)
- Journalism and Media Studies Centre, HKU

The offering of these elective courses will be announced in appropriate timing before course enrollment.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

POLI6004. Theories of international relations (6 credits)

This survey course is designed for graduate students and offers a rigorous introduction to the main debates and theoretical perspectives of international relations: *what do we know about international conflict and international cooperation? Is the state the most significant actor in international affairs today? Can theory inform us about the actual day-to-day of international politics?* Students will familiarize themselves with a variety of theoretical perspectives; however, the course will not manage to cover in depth and breadth each theoretical approach to International Relations theory. It is most likely that you will leave the course with more questions than answers.

Assessment: 70% coursework, 30% examination

POLI6006. International political economy (6 credits)

This course studies the international political economy. How do economic and political forces interact in the international arena? How do these interactions shape the outcomes experienced globally, nationally, and by individual citizens? We address these questions in this course. We begin by sharpening our thinking technologies: grasping the key analytical paradigms used in IPE, and developing the methodological awareness that we need in order to consume IPE research. Equipped with the tools to understand IPE, we next turn to its substance. Substantive topics include international trade, global capital flows, financial crises, multinational production, climate change, international movements of people, and the performance of different national economies in the global economic system. We conclude by reflecting on ethical dilemmas, the future of the global political economy, and how that future affects us individually and collectively.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

Capstone Project

POLI6031. Capstone project (12 credits)

The capstone project enables students to integrate what they have learned from the MIPA Programme and demonstrate their ability to analyze critical issues in international relations and public affairs. Students will work in small groups and complete a research project. A topic is selected in consultation with relevant teaching staff in September and the title of the capstone project is submitted for approval by December 1 of the final academic year of study. The project is then researched and written and submitted for examination by May 31 of the final academic year of study.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Core Courses

POLI6005. International organizations (6 credits)

This course provides a general survey of the development of international organizations. It begins with the philosophical and theoretical foundations of international organizations. This toolbox is then used to explain the role of the main international institutions in specific policy domains, including international security, trade, finance, human rights and environment. For each of those domains, the course analyses the construction of the global policy problems, the international organizations established at addressing them, the way in which policies are negotiated and decided within those institutions, and their ability to solve the problems that motivated their creation. Special emphasis is given to exploring the roles and functions of the United Nations, and its affiliated organizations. Attention will also be given to regional organizations such as North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and European Union (EU). Students will complete the course with a deeper understanding of the both similarities and differences between international organizations and their effective contribution to the governance of global politics.

Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6007. International relations in the Asia-Pacific (6 credits)

This course is a survey of international relations in the Asia Pacific region. Instead of providing a comprehensive examination of the history, culture, and national policies of countries in the region, it mainly addresses four issues here: What are major trends in regional IR? What is the source of conflict in the region? What are the common interests that unite peoples and states of the Asian Pacific? How does the region organise itself? It explains dynamics and patterns of regional international relations in a broad geopolitical and geoeconomic context. Topics in discussion include major powers' role in the region, the Korean Peninsula, the Taiwan Strait, ASEAN, Southeast Asia and regional institution-building.

Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6008. Understanding global problems: theory and practice (6 credits)

This course aims to critically explore some of the major challenges confronting an international community that is faced with unprecedented levels of global interdependency and escalating power asymmetry. The class will provide a detailed analysis of the issues at stake, providing students with the intellectual grounding necessary to critically evaluate many of our most pressing global problems and their proposed solutions. While the list of controversies changes each semester, some past questions have included: Are genetically modified foods crucial to the fight against hunger? Is U.S. hegemony a force for global (in)stability? Is globalization inherently "anti-religious"? Was NATO intervention in Kosovo justified? In exploring these and other controversies, the course will combine perspectives from the academic literature with those of practitioners, including senior diplomats, representatives from non-governmental organizations, government officials, and corporate executives.

Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6010. Chinese foreign policy (6 credits)

This course examines key foreign policy issues and the process of foreign policy making of the People's Republic of China. It begins with a framework of analysis for studying Chinese foreign policy. Different models and explanations are used in analyzing Chinese foreign policy. Special emphasis is placed on the revolutionary source of Chinese foreign policy and China's position in the changing international environment during the Cold War and its rise as a major global power in recent years.

Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6029. War and armed conflict: philosophical issues (6 credits)

This course provides a thorough introduction into the moral issues of war and armed conflict, with a focus on current debates in just war theory, and in particular on such controversial issues as "the moral (in)equality of soldiers", the principle of discrimination, terrorism, torture, guerrilla warfare and humanitarian intervention.

Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6032. International law (6 credits)

This course is taught under the assumption that most of the students are not majoring in public international law. It begins with an introduction to the study of international law, its sources, subjects, and its relations with domestic laws. It is then followed by a number of topics including, state sovereignty over territory and jurisdiction, immunities and treaties, UNCLOS, use of force and peaceful settlements of disputes, human rights and humanitarian laws, economic and environmental laws, etc. The course is mainly composed of two parts: lectures and class discussions. As an integrated part, the discussion session demands everyone's active participation. A list of international legal issues and/or cases shall be distributed in advance and "mock chambers" of ICJ or other judicial bodies shall be formed by the students from time to time to render decisions or give advisory opinions on the legal questions concerned.

Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6033. Cross-Taiwan Strait relations (6 credits)

This course will explore the historical background and contemporary dynamics of the relationship across the Taiwan Strait, and introduces relevant theoretical concepts and analytical tools in studying cross-Taiwan Strait issues. The Taiwan problem has been a defining issue for China and its rise towards a great power in world affairs. The convergence and divergence between Taiwan and the mainland have troubled the Chinese nation for centuries. The course will examine the historical origin of the Taiwan problem and how cross-Strait relations have evolved since the late 19th century. In studying the evolving Taiwan problem, particular attention will be given on the role of the United States in shaping cross-Strait relations. In studying contemporary dynamics, the course will focus on the issues of economic integration, political dialogues, mutual confidence building, and people-to-people exchanges in the development of cross-Strait relations.

Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6035. War and strategy (6 credits)

Chinese strategist Sun Zi declared: "War is a matter of vital importance to the state; the province of life or death; the road to survival or ruin. It is mandatory that it should be thoroughly studied." Complying with Sun's exhortation this course provides a composite introduction to the theory and practice of modern warfare based upon the precepts of Strategic Studies. It considers the complex relationship between politics and strategy, and the evolution of strategic thought, through focusing on the application of land/air/naval/space/cyber power. It also exposes questions of nuclear deterrence, revolutionary technologies, irregular warfare and terrorism. Through this course students will gain both conceptual and practical knowledge of warfare, and hone their critical and analytical faculties through the examination of complex strategic problems.

Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6036. Special topics in international relations (I) (6 credits)

This course is designed to explore a selected area or a set of selected issues in international relations studies. The course applies different theoretical approaches to enhance students' understanding of the changing international order and environment, the future prospects for international conflict and cooperation, international security, and current problems of world politics.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI6037. Special topics in international relations (II) (6 credits)

This course is designed to explore a selected area or a set of selected issues in international relations studies. The course applies different theoretical approaches to enhance students' understanding of the changing international order and environment, the future prospects for international conflict and cooperation, international security, and current problems of world politics.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI6038. Special topics in international political economy (I) (6 credits)

This course applies different theoretical approaches to important historical and contemporary empirical issues in the study of international political economy. Different from the general survey course POLI 6006 International Political Economy, this course examines a set of special topics in international political economy. It examines more recent theoretical developments and applies comparative approaches to real world economic issues. Previous background in the study of international relations and international political economy is helpful but is not a requirement.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI6039. Special topics in international political economy (II) (6 credits)

This course applies different theoretical approaches to important historical and contemporary empirical issues in the study of international political economy. Different from the general survey course POLI 6006 International Political Economy, this course examines a set of special topics in international political economy. It examines more recent theoretical developments and applies comparative approaches to real world economic issues. Previous background in the study of international relations and international political economy is helpful but is not a requirement.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI6040. Special topics in Asia Pacific international relations (I) (6 credits)

This course examines a set of selected topics in the study of Asia Pacific international relations. Different from POLI6007 International relations in the Asia-Pacific, this course focuses on special topics in the study of Asia-Pacific international relations, such as regional stability and cooperation, regional institutions and multilateralism, traditional and non-traditional security issues, regional conflict management and resolution, major powers' foreign policy towards the region, and international relations in Northeast Asia or Southeast Asia.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI6041. Special topics in Asia Pacific international relations (II) (6 credits)

This course examines a set of selected topics in the study of Asia Pacific international relations. Different from POLI6007 International relations in the Asia-Pacific, this course focuses on special topics in the study of Asia-Pacific international relations, such as regional stability and cooperation, regional institutions and multilateralism, traditional and non-traditional security issues, regional conflict management and resolution, major powers' foreign policy towards the region, and international relations in Northeast Asia or Southeast Asia.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI6042. Special topics in global and regional governance (I) (6 credits)

This course examines current scholarly debates relating to the interdisciplinary study of global and regional governance in the context of globalization. The current wave of globalization has created opportunities and challenges for governance at both global and regional levels. This course introduces students to the study of a set of selected issues in global and/or regional governance. It examines competing perspectives on globalization, global governance, regionalization, and regional governance. It explores the sources and consequences of globalization and regionalization as well as the key actors, institutions, regimes, and norms of global and regional governance.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI6043. Special topics in global and regional governance (II) (6 credits)

This course examines current scholarly debates relating to the interdisciplinary study of global and regional governance in the context of globalization. The current wave of globalization has created opportunities and challenges for governance at both global and regional levels. This course introduces students to the study of a set of selected issues in global and/or regional governance. It examines competing perspectives on globalization, global governance, regionalization, and regional governance. It explores the sources and consequences of globalization and regionalization as well as the key actors, institutions, regimes, and norms of global and regional governance.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI6044. World energy issues: international political economy and security (6 credits)

This course examines the interaction of global energy concerns with economic and geopolitical issues, with a focus on petroleum. Energy has been central to the formulation of national strategies, regional security dynamics, great power politics, and the macroeconomic stability. The class begins by providing an overview about oil in international security and political economy, and then examines the role of oil in geopolitics and economy in regions such as the Persian Gulf, Central Asia, and East Asia in more detail. The classes will involve in-depth discussions about many of current international issues including Russian relations with Ukraine, wars and conflicts in the Persian Gulf, the recent Iran nuclear deal, as well as China's growth and its diplomacy where the political economy of oil has been a major factor. The course also looks at other current energy issues such as the shale oil boom, the future of nuclear power, and the impact of energy on the environment.

Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI6038 in 2015-16 are not allowed to take this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6045. The politics of global inequality (6 credits)

This class explores several questions surrounding the importance of income inequality. Why have some countries grown rich while others have not? Why are some societies more equal than others? Is wealth inequality the only type of inequality? Does inequality even matter? This class examines these questions by studying the political economy of growth and inequality. The main goal of this course is to understand both the causes and the consequences of income inequality. To this end, this course will draw from a variety of theoretical perspectives including economics, political science, psychology, and sociology to examine the sources of inequality and what can be done about it.

Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI6036 in 2015-16 are not allowed to take this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6046. Political and sovereign risk assessment (6 credits)

This course will assess political and sovereign risk models from an academic, governmental, and business perspective. The course will introduce both quantitative and qualitative models of political and sovereign risk analysis within the framework of theories of international political economy (IPE). The course will apply these models to the sovereign debt crisis of the 1980s, the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997, the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, and current issues within the global economic order. Students will learn how to analyze and present contemporary international risk assessments that integrate theoretical models, historical experience, financial market constraints, economic realities, and political exigencies.

Eligibility: Students who have taken POLI6025 in 2014-15 or POLI6039 in 2015-16 are not allowed to take this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

POLI8004. Government and law (6 credits)

This course examines the legal regulation of governmental powers at the constitutional and administrative levels. Topics include: the constitutional development of Hong Kong under “One Country Two Systems” and the Basic Law; principles of constitutional and legal interpretation; constitutional protection of human rights under the Basic Law and the Bill of Rights; the nature of judicial review of administrative actions; exercise of discretionary powers by administrative officials; principles of judicial review and their application in actual cases.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination

POLI8014. NGOs and governance (6 credits)

This course examines the relationships between and among the state, market and civil society with particular reference to the work of those not-for-profit organizations and associations which are normally referred to as NGOs. It focuses on the legal-structural dimensions of NGOs and the ways in which they operate in the production, provision, ownership, regulation and facilitation of various goods and services.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

Elective Courses

POLI6021. Overseas study at Peking University: “Current issues in China’s international relations” (6 credits)

The course will explore the major foreign policy issues that are confronting China in recent years. These issues include China and globalization, China and regional security, China’s relations with US, China’s relations with Europe, China’s relations with Japan, and China and international environmental protection. It will be jointly taught by renowned Chinese foreign policy scholars at Peking University and practitioners and specialists based in Beijing.

Assessment: 100% coursework

POLI6023. Overseas study at Johns Hopkins University: SAIS programme (6 credits)

The School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) summer program provides students from across the United States and abroad an opportunity to enrol in excellent courses taught in a condensed form. Courses offered include American foreign policy since World War II, global issues: drugs, crime and terrorism, principles and practices of conflict management, strategy and policy, international monetary theory, international trade theory. Students are required to take one SAIS course.

POLI6024. Overseas study at Johns Hopkins University: SAIS programme (12 credits)

The School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) summer program provides students from across the United States and abroad an opportunity to enrol in excellent courses taught in a condensed form. Courses offered include American foreign policy since World War II, global issues: drugs, crime and terrorism, principles and practices of conflict management, strategy and policy, international monetary theory, international trade theory. Students are required to take two SAIS courses.

POLI6030. Overseas study at George Washington University: U.S. foreign policy summer programme (6 credits)

This two-week intensive course examines how U.S. foreign policy is made, the history that informs it, the political culture that sustains it, and the ideas and interests that drive it. Taking full advantage of its location in downtown Washington, DC, the programme features visits to key institutions that influence American foreign policy as well as lectures by leading scholars and experts from government, think tanks, international organizations, non-profit organizations, the media, and foreign embassies. More information is at www.gwu.edu/~usfsp

POLI6034. Overseas study at Seoul National University: Seminar on area studies – East Asia in the modern world (6 credits)

This course is intended to make students familiar with the contemporary issues related to the East Asian countries, ranging from trade disputes and soft powers to financial problems. Taking an historical approach and using key theoretical perspectives, students will learn how the East Asian region has been coping with policy challenges and how East Asian regional order has evolved into its current forms.
