

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 科目簡介

COURSES FOR TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

MIA501 Theories and Approaches of International Relations (3 credits)

The course introduces students to the core issues and major historical developments in the advanced study of international relations, including the key theoretical and methodological approaches to understanding global politics. Through an understanding of different and competing analytical and normative frameworks, including realist, liberal, constructivist, Marxist and critical perspectives, students will learn about how the various actors, forces and ideas have influenced, shaped and transformed past and contemporary international relations and global events. The course will also examine some of the more significant features of the international system – such as how change occurs, the relations between politics and economics, and the interconnections between individuals and governments. Scholarly writings and illustrations from case studies and issues are designed to assist students to better appreciate the dynamic relations between conceptual debates and policy-making in the international arena.

MIA502 Theories and Approaches of Comparative Politics (3 credits)

This course attempts a general survey in the field of comparative politics. Some important concepts and methods of the discipline are introduced. Specific topics include methods and approaches of comparative politics; government, regime and state; unitary, federal and confederal systems; typologies of state-society relations, specifically on bureaucratic-authoritarianism, totalitarianism, corporatism civil society and populism; political culture and nationalism; interest group and political party; election and political participation; parliamentary, presidential and semi-presidential systems; comparative democracies between majoritarian and consociational model; and lastly on the topic of democratisation and regime change.

MIA504 Politics of Global Economic Interdependence (3 credits)

The world economy has become increasingly integrated and interdependent, posing a great challenge to global governance. What role do domestic and international politics play in shaping the global economic order? To what extent do economic forces constrain or empower political actors? This seminar intends to expose postgraduate students to the major debates of global political economy and help students develop an analytical toolkit to study the interplay between the state and the market or politics and economics. We are devoted to understanding international trade, international finance, international production, international development and international migration.

MIA505 Introduction to China-Africa Studies (3 credits)

This course will focus on the governance and politics of China and African countries. Students will be introduced to many conceptual lenses to understanding the governance and political systems of China and different African regions (North, East, West, Central and Southern Africa) and how the differences and similarities position various nations in world politics and its effects on global affairs. The course will address distinct and comparative issues relating to African and Chinese settings in the areas of issues of colonialism, postcolonial legacies, democracy, politics, politics, and civil unrest. The course will be delivered through interactive lectures. Various case studies will be used to broaden students' knowledge. The seminars will generally be led by invited scholars, both locally and internationally.

MIA611 Religion, Culture and Development in Africa and China (3 credits)

Notwithstanding the rise in secularisation across the globe, religious and cultural values continue to permeate public development discourse and approaches. The role of religious and cultural values in how states and individuals enact and facilitate various relationships and promote harmony for development cannot be overstated. This course is rooted in the broader relations between China and African countries. It will first provide insights into religious and cultural differences and dissimilarities between China and African (various countries) societies. It then discusses the historical and contemporary socioeconomic development of selected sub-Saharan African countries and China and the contributory roles of religion and cultural systems. The course will further the discussions to how these sociocultural dynamics play out between Chinese and Africans (with cognisance of diversity) as there is intensification in people-to-people engagements between Africans and Chinese. The course will be delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars and film screening.

MIA612 International Symposium on Sino-African Studies (3 credits)

In this intensive block course, students will be required to participate in an international academic conference which will focus mainly on issues relating to China and Africa relations. Numerous leading scholars will be invited to the symposiums. Working in groups, students will be required to pay attention and reflect on the contemporary theoretical, methodological and empirical lessons on China-Africa relations at micro and macro level engagements. They will be expected to summarise various presentations and draw connections between them based on a selected theme. The theme can be broad such as education, health, industrialisation, and political engagements. Students will be required to support their analysis with at least two peer-reviewed articles relating to their themes. An oral presentation session will provide students with the opportunity to expatiate on their thoughts and experiences.

MIA613 China-Africa Relations: Past and Present (3 credits)

The recent rise of China in economic and technical terms has positioned the country as a major global player in international development. Accordingly, debates in the media and scholarly landscape have centred on the relations between China and especially countries in the development south such as those in Africa. In this course, students will be introduced to the development trajectories of China and selected African countries from theoretical and empirical perspectives. The lectures will centre around debates on China's multi-sectoral role in development of Africa in areas such as infrastructure development, education development and exchanges, trade and economic health service delivery, natural resource extraction, development aid, technology and knowledge transfer as well as the contribution of African nations and nationalities to China's development. The course will be delivered by a combination of interactive lectures and seminars.

MIA614 Research on Comparative China-Africa Studies (3 credits)

This course has two parts. The first part will comprise of an intensive comparative methodological lesson on researching China-Africa. Students will be taken through different methodologies and analytical techniques. In the second part, students will be expected to work individually or in groups to carry out a short empirical research based on primary or secondary data. The paper can also be in the form of a critical comparative literature review of China-Africa relations from theoretical, historical and political perspectives. In both cases the essays or research must be at least 4000 words for individual projects and 6000 for group projects (comprising not more than three students). Each student (or a group) shall work with a dedicated advisor.