PIA5340: INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA

Effective Term
Semester B 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title
Infrastructure Development in China

Subject Code
PIA - Public and International Affairs
Course Number
5340

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
P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction
English

Medium of Assessment
English

Prerequisites
Nil

Precursors
Nil

Equivalent Courses
AIS5340 Infrastructure Development in China

Exclusive Courses
Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

Infrastructure is one of the key drivers for economic development in China. Despite its strategic role and economic values, many infrastructure sectors are state owned or state controlled. With a view to enhancing its efficiency and financial viability, the Chinese government had initiated a series of marketization reform and resulted in different intended and unintended outcomes. This course offers theoretical and empirical explanations on the constraints and solutions to marketize and develop infrastructure sectors in China. The network characteristics of various infrastructure sector, and its implications on the choice of reform will be discussed. Examples in other countries will also be used for illustration. Students will be provided with the necessary theoretical and empirical background for critical analysis, and are encouraged to reflect upon orthodox wisdom on privatization of different infrastructure sectors in China, Hong Kong and other countries.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify the theoretical and empirical complexities of infrastructure development		x	x	
2	Explain the role and constraints of the state in infrastructure development		x	x	
3	Understand and criticize the key contemporary issues in infrastructure development in China		x	x	x
4	Develop research and analytical skills in the study of infrastructure development		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	1	Lectures: the instructor will present concepts, theories and case studies on infrastructure development in China and other countries	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	2	Class discussions: Students shall actively participate in class discussion to enhance the understanding of various concepts and case studies	1, 2, 3, 4	

3	3	Group presentations: Students will work in groups to propose solution to various developmental problems	1, 2, 3, 4	
4	4	Final test: students will be tested on their knowledge acquired in the course	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Attendance and class discussion	1, 2, 3, 4	20	
2	Group presentation	1, 2, 3, 4	30	
3	Final test	1, 2, 3, 4	50	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

Attendance and class discussion (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Active participation in class discussion

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)
- Superior understanding of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- Clear ability of independent thinking and critical analysis

Good

(B+, B, B-)
- Good understanding of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- Evidence of some good Clear ability of independent thinking and critical analysis

Fair

(C+, C, C-)
- Sufficient understanding of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- Some attempts at analytical thinking

Marginal

(D)
- Some knowledge of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- Little evidence of analysis of relevant concepts

Failure

(F) - Little evidence of knowledge of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development

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Assessment Task

Presentation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Quality of group presentation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) - Superior understanding of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- Clear ability of independent thinking and critical analysis
- Extensive range of references consulted, including good use of scholarly materials to support all key arguments made - Very well organized; coherent arguments presented with a high standard of expression

Good

(B+, B, B-) - Good understanding of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- Evidence of some good clear ability of independent thinking and critical analysis
- A reasonably wide range of references consulted, including good use of Scholarly materials to support all key arguments made - Well organized; coherent arguments presented with a high standard of expression

Fair

(C+, C, C-) - Sufficient understanding of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- Some attempts at analytical thinking
- Barely sufficient use of scholarly materials
- Reasonable standard of expression; average quality in terms of organization and coherence

Marginal

(D) - Some knowledge of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- Little evidence of analysis of relevant concepts
- Very limited use of scholarly materials
- Acceptable organization of a mostly descriptive essay

Failure

(F) - Little evidence of knowledge of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- No scholarly materials consulted
- Poor quality structure and presentation

Assessment Task

Final test (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Quality of written essay(s)

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)
- Superior understanding of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- Clear ability of independent thinking and critical analysis
- Extensive range of references consulted, including good use of scholarly materials to support all key arguments made
- Very well organized; coherent arguments presented with a high standard of expression

Good

(B+, B, B-)
- Good understanding of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- Evidence of some good Clear ability of independent thinking and critical analysis
- A reasonably wide range of references consulted, including good use of scholarly materials to support all key arguments made
- Well organized; coherent arguments presented with a high standard of expression

Fair

(C+, C, C-)
- Sufficient understanding of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- Some attempts at analytical thinking
- Barely sufficient use of scholarly materials
- Reasonable standard of expression; average quality in terms of organization and coherence

Marginal

(D)
- Some knowledge of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- Little evidence of analysis of relevant concepts
- Very limited use of scholarly materials
- Acceptable organization of a mostly descriptive essay

Failure

(F)
- Little evidence of knowledge of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- No scholarly materials consulted
- Poor quality structure and presentation

Assessment Task

Attendance and class discussion (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Active participation in class discussion

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)
- Superior understanding of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- Clear ability of independent thinking and critical analysis

Good

(B+, B)
- Good understanding of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- Evidence of some good Clear ability of independent thinking and critical analysis

Marginal

(B-, C+, C)
- Some knowledge of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- Little evidence of analysis of relevant concepts

Failure

(F) - Little evidence of knowledge of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development

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Assessment Task

Presentation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Quality of group presentation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) - Superior understanding of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development - Clear ability of independent thinking and critical analysis - Extensive range of references consulted, including good use of scholarly materials to support all key arguments made - Very well organized; coherent arguments presented with a high standard of expression

Good

(B+, B) - Good understanding of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development - Evidence of some good clear ability of independent thinking and critical analysis - A reasonably wide range of references consulted, including good use of Scholarly materials to support all key arguments made - Well organized; coherent arguments presented with a high standard of expression

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) - Some knowledge of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development - Little evidence of analysis of relevant concepts - Very limited use of scholarly materials - Acceptable organization of a mostly descriptive essay

Failure

(F) - Little evidence of knowledge of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development - No scholarly materials consulted - Poor quality structure and presentation

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Assessment Task

Final test (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Quality of written essay(s)

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)
- Superior understanding of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- Clear ability of independent thinking and critical analysis
- Extensive range of references consulted, including good use of scholarly materials to support all key arguments made
- Very well organized; coherent arguments presented with a high standard of expression

Good

(B+, B)
- Good understanding of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- Evidence of some good Clear ability of independent thinking and critical analysis
- A reasonably wide range of references consulted, including good use of scholarly materials to support all key arguments made
- Well organized; coherent arguments presented with a high standard of expression

Marginal

(B-, C+, C)
- Some knowledge of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- Little evidence of analysis of relevant concepts
- Very limited use of scholarly materials
- Acceptable organization of a mostly descriptive essay

Failure

(F)
- Little evidence of knowledge of a major issue or problem of infrastructure development
- No scholarly materials consulted
- Poor quality structure and presentation

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

As this is intended as an umbrella course, it has no fixed syllabus of its own. The syllabus of each intensive seminar offered under this course will be decided by the visiting staff and/or the programme leader and outlined in the course manual. For record purposes, the keyword syllabus of every intensive course will be included in an Appendix-A to this Form, while the course outline and recommended readings will be included in future Appendix.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Alchian, A.A. & Demsetz, H., 1972, "Production, Information Costs, and Economic Organization," The American Economic Review, vol. 62, no. 5, pp. 777-795.
2	Bordie, R., S. Wilson a & J. Kuang, "The Importance, Development and Reform Challenges of China' Rail Sector," in L. Song, R. Garnaut & C. Fang (Eds), Deepening Reform for China' s Long –term Growth and Development, Canberra: ANU Press, 2014.
3	Campos, J., & P. Cantos, 1999, "Rail Transport Regulation," The World Bank Group Working Paper, pp.4-18 (http://info.worldbank.org/etools/docs/library/64576/2064rail.pdf).
4	Coase, R. H., 1959, "The Federal Communications Commission," Journal of Law and Economics, vol. 2, pp. 1-40.
5	Demsetz, H., 2002, "Towards a Theory of Property Rights," American Economic Review, vol. 57, issue 2, pp.653-672.
6	Li, H. & Rozelle, S., 2004, "Insider privatization with a tail: the screening contract and performance of privatized firms in rural China," Journal of Development Economics, vol. 75, no. 1, pp. 1-26.
7	Naughton, B., 2010, "China's Distinctive System: can it be a model for others?" Journal of Contemporary China, vol. 19, no. 65, pp. 437-460.
8	Tjia, Linda Yin-nor, 2015, Explaining Railway Reform in China: A train of property rights re-arrangements, London: Routledge.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Button, K.J. 1994, "Privatisation and deregulation : its implications for negative transport externalities," The annals of regional science : an international journal of urban, regional and environmental research and policy ; official journal of the Western Regional Science Association, vol. 28, no. 1, pp. 125-138.
2	Kopicki, R., & Louis S. Thompson, 1995, "Best Methods of Railway Restructuring and Privatization," World Bank CFS Discussion paper Series, pp. 1-17, 19-39 (http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTRAILWAYS/Resources/b35.pdf).
3	Naughton, B., 2005, "SASAC Rising," China Leadership Monitor, no. 14, pp. 1-11.
4	Naughton, B., 2013, "The Return of Planning in China," Modern China, vol. 39, no. 6, pp. 640-652.
5	OECD, 2003, Railway Reform in China promoting competition, OECD report.