

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Course Code / Title** : HA4067 Geopolitics & Geoeconomics of the Mekong Region

**Pre-requisites** : HA1001

**No. of AUs.** : 4

**Contact Hours** : 52

### **Course Aims**

The course aims to equip students with analytical frameworks to understand the complexity and dynamics of the geopolitics and geoeconomics of the Mekong region. Those who are passionate about learning and understanding their Southeast Asian neighbours and wish to work in the region are encouraged to take this course. The course prepares you to work in the field of public policy and geopolitical risk analysis.

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

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

1. Acknowledge and appreciate the complexity and dynamism of the region
2. Understand key concepts relating to geopolitics and geoeconomics
3. Explain the relationships/interactions between key actors/agencies
4. Apply conceptual frameworks to analyse regional geopolitics and geoeconomics
5. Capture regional geopolitical trends and prepare for future risks and uncertainties
6. Discuss and debate effectively as an individual and as a team

## Course Content

Seminar	
1	Introduces the geography, society, economy, and politics of the Mekong countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam) and the regional integration projects in the Mekong region such as the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), ACMECS, and CLV DTA.
2	Introduces the concepts of geopolitics and a meta-geopolitical framework. The students will be able to understand the interdependent relationship between politics and geography, sociology, demography, and economy, and apply a conceptual framework to analyse state's capabilities and geopolitical risks.
3	Introduces the concept of geoeconomics and economic statecraft. The students will be equipped with analytical tools to understand the relationship between international economics and international security and the application of specific economic policy instruments to achieve geopolitical aims.
4	Introduces the concept of hydropolitics. The students will be equipped with some analytical tools to understand geographical and political complexities of transboundary river basins and conflict over and within the transboundary waters of the Mekong River basin.
5	Introduces the concept of water-energy-food (WEF) nexus and the application of WEF nexus analysis index to develop sustainable development policy in the Mekong River Basin.
6	Introduces the concept of climate security and analyse impacts of climate change on the people's livelihoods, ecosystems, sustainability, and social harmony in the Mekong region. Students will be asked to develop innovative solutions to address the impacts caused by climate change.
7	Discusses the roles and limits of ASEAN in managing regional issues such as water security and transboundary water resource management in the Mekong River Basin. The Mekong is a test for ASEAN centrality as it emerges as an area of growing major power competition.
8	Discusses China's foreign policy towards the Mekong region by examining the case study of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) initiated by China. It also analyses the responses of the Mekong countries towards China.

9	Discusses the intentions, interests, and roles of Japan in the Mekong region, especially under the framework of Mekong-Japan Cooperation. It also analyses the responses of the Mekong countries toward Japan.
10	Discusses the intentions, interests, and roles of the Republic of Korea in the Mekong region, especially under the framework of Mekong-Korea. It also analyses the responses of the Mekong countries toward the Republic of Korea.
11	Discusses the intentions, interests, and roles of India in the Mekong region, especially under the framework of Mekong-Ganga cooperation. It also analyses the response of the Mekong countries toward India.
12	Discusses the intentions, interests, and roles of the United States in the Mekong region, especially under the framework of Mekong-U.S. partnership. It also analyses US-China competition in the Mekong region and the responses of the Mekong countries.
13	Explores multiple futures for the Mekong by applying geopolitics and geoeconomics analytical frameworks.

**Course Assessment**

Class Participation	: 10%
Seminar Report 1	: 20%
Seminar Report 2	: 40%
Reflective Essay	: 5%
Quiz (1, 2, 3)	: 15%
Debates	: 10%
<b>Total</b>	----- <b>100%</b>