**Politics and Political Economy of Southeast Asia**

Wednesday pm 2:00~5:00

Lecturer: Lee Jaehyon (Asan Institute for Policy Studies)

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1. **Course Description**

This course, Politics and Political Economy of Southeast Asia, is designed to introduce Southeast Asian politics, economy, foreign policy and regional cooperation. Southeast Asia region is not just growing economically. At the same time, the geopolitical importance of Southeast Asia, given the strategic rivalry between the US, China and the South China Sea dispute etc., is increasing every day. The countries in the region, which are often collapsed into a single name, Southeast Asia or ASEAN, are so different from one another in their politics, economy, society, culture and foreign policy. Put together into ASEAN, they have another different identity as well. The first half of this course browses individual countries in Southeast Asia, focusing on special topics of individual countries. On individual country studies, basic understanding of politics and political structure of a country is more important than catching up with contemporary issues which will be provided by lecturer if necessary. Based on this, the second half is organized thematically – democracy, economy, ASEAN, regional cooperation, relations with neighbours etc. Given growing importance of Southeast Asia geopolitically and geoeconomically, the knowledge and insight acquired through this course will open many opportunities for those who attend this class.

1. **Course format**

Students are required to make presentations and actively take part in discussion during class. At least two presentations will be made each class. Presenters in each class are required to put forwards some questions for debate. The presentations and discussions will be supplemented by the lecturer. Roughly half of each class will be about presentations and discussion and the remaining half will be a lecture and supplementary explanation by the lecturer.

1. **Text Book and Reading Assignment**

Rodolfo V. Severino, Elspeth Thomson and Mark Hong. eds. 2010. *Southeast Asia in a New Era*. Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS). Singapore.

Ooi Kee Beng, Sanchita Basu Das, Terence Chong, Malcolm Cook, Cassey Lee and Michael Yeo eds. 2015. *The 3rd ASEAN Reader*. ISEAS. Singapore.

Mark Beeson ed. 2009 (2nd edition). *Contemporary Southeast Asia*. Palgrave Macmillan. Houndmills.

* Above three books are the main text book. Students have to read most of the chapters of the books. Supplementary articles and information will be provided if necessary.

1. **Grading and Evaluation**

Grading is based on four elements: mid-term exam (30), final essay (45), attendance (10) and participation (15)

* Mid-term exam: questions for short answer (explaining concept, event etc.)
* Attendance: one point deduction for each absence (week). If attendance point becomes zero, then a student fail in this course
* Participation: students have to actively participate in the debate during the class
* Final essay: should be submitted a week before the date for final submission of grading (will be known later). Students are required to write a paper (around 5,000 words) on topics related to Southeast Asia. A page of proposal should be submitted by mid-term exam.

1. **Course Schedule and assignment**

* Reading assignment here only enlists chapters in the main text books. Some of them are must read and others are not. List of other articles and essays will be provided during the class

Week 1 Introduction

Introduction to this course and SEA/ASEAN

1. Reading: Severino Ch. 1.

Week 2 Malaysia

Politics of Malaysia, Ethnic Politics: past and today

1. Reading: Severino Ch. 6; Beeson Ch. 9; Ooi Ch. 6

Week 3 Indonesia

Politics of Indonesia, Democratisation of Indonesia

1. Reading: Severino Ch. 4; Ooi Ch. 5

Week 4 Singapore

Politics of Singapore, Politics of survival and identity

1. Reading: Severino Ch. 9

Week 5 Thailand

Politics of Thailand, Quasi Constitutional Monarchy of Thailand

1. Reading: Severino Ch. 10; Ooi Ch. 7

Week 6 The Philippines and Laos

Philippines: overdue social reform, Introduction to Laos

1. Reading: Severino Ch. 8 and Ch. 5; Ooi Ch. 9

Week 7 Vietnam, Cambodia

Vietnam: Capitalist development, Introduction to Cambodia

1. Reading: Severino Ch. 11 and Ch. 3; Ooi Ch. 8

Week 8 Mid-term exam

* Final essay proposal due date

Week 9 Myanmar, Brunei

Politics and liberalization of Myanmar, Introduction to Brunei

1. Reading: Severino Ch. 7 and Ch. 2; Ooi Ch. 10

Week 10 Southeast Asia as a region

Pre- and post-colonial Southeast Asia; Nation-building and Cold War in Southeast Asia

1. Reading: Beeson Ch. 1, 2 and 3

Week 11 Democracy in Southeast Asia

Status of democracy in individual states

What holds Southeast Asia back in democratic progress?

1. Reading: Beeson Ch. 6, 7 and 8; Ooi Ch. 16, 20

Week 12 Economic growth and crisis

Past experience of SEA economic growth; Economic crises and Southeast Asia

1. Reading: Beeson Ch. 4; Ooi Ch. 21, 25

Week 13 ASEAN

Building and development of ASEAN; ASEAN today and community building

1. Reading: Severino Ch. 12; Ooi 18, 32~43, 53~55, 66; Beeson Ch. 15

Week 14~15 External Relations

ASEAN's Relations with major powers; Strategic environment Surrounding ASEA

Geopolitical and geoeconomic competition

1. Reading: Beeson Ch. 12, 13 and 14; Ooi Ch. 2, 24, 30, 60, 73~79

Week 16 Regional Cooperation

Beginning and development of East Asian Regional Cooperation

EARC today and future

1. Reading: Ooi Ch. 31, 61, 64, 65, 68