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Political Economy of Southeast Asia (8753.677)
SNU GSIS
Fall 2020

Tue 2:00-5:00 p.m.
Building 140, Room 105

Instructor: Yoon Ah Oh (yoonah.oh@snu.ac.kr)
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce graduate students to key political economy issues of contemporary Southeast Asia. We investigate the dynamics of economic development, political crises, and social conflicts of the region while paying special attention to their interactions. Domestic issues will be linked to external relations, both at the country and regional level. While recognizing that each Southeast Asian country is unique in its economic development strategy, political system, and social relations, this course also explores whether regional integration as well as globalization has led to convergence in national experiences and how we may study them. This course provides students with opportunities to work with both qualitative and quantitative research methods. This semester, we will focus on “land and development,” with linkages to land tenure, land titling, land governance, land disputes, agricultural development, infrastructure development, and populism. Our discussions will be informed by country cases, and we will take a closer look at examples from Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Instructional Methods (Subject to Change)

In-person classes (Four meetings): Sept 1, Sept 15, Oct 13, and Nov 10

Synchronous online classes on Zoom: the rest

Short pre-recorded video clips when necessary throughout the semester

Course Requirements and Evaluation

1	Class attendance and participation	10 %
2	Weekly response questions	20 %
3	Weekly data assignments	20 %
4	Research proposal presentation	20 %
5	Final exam	30 %

1. Attendance and participation: Students are expected to do the readings before they come to class and engage discussions.

2. Assignments: Expect at least two types of assignments every week. Students will submit questions on the weekly readings. Those questions will be discussed in class and evaluated by the instructor. For assignments involving data collection and data analysis, you will be asked to work with MS Excel and Tableau. Detailed instructions will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

3. Student presentations: Students will present their research proposals to class near the end of the semester. Detailed instructions will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

4. Final exam: Students will take a take-home exam. Detailed instructions will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

Course Reading

There is no single text for this course. Some of the reading materials will be available through ETL. Students are expected to find journal articles through the SNU library system.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be treated lightly. It will result in lowered or failing grades as well as the possibility of more serious punishments.

Use of Electronic Devices for In-Person Classes

You may use laptops or tablets in class to take notes or consult readings. Any other use of electronic devices is prohibited. Violating this policy will negatively impact your participation grade.

Recording Policy

Video and/or audio recording of any course activity is prohibited as a general rule. Students with approved accommodations from the Center for Students with Disabilities permitting the recording of class meetings must present the accommodation letter to the instructor in advance of any recording being done.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction and Course Overview

No readings

Week 2: Historical Overview of Southeast Asian Development

Chandler, David, et al. *The emergence of modern Southeast Asia: A new history*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2005, Chapter 1, "Introduction" (begin at "Some Geographic Realities")

Perkins, Dwight H. *East Asian development*. Harvard University Press, 2013, Chapters 4 and 5 (For Chapter 5, focus on the Vietnam part)

Week 3: Land and Industrialization in Southeast Asia

Studwell, Joe. *How Asia works: Success and failure in the world's most dynamic region*. 2014, Grove Press, Part 1 "Land," and Part 2 "Manufacturing"

Pendleton, Robert L. "Land Use in Southeast Asia." *Far Eastern Survey* 16, no. 3 (1947): 25-29. doi:10.2307/3022566.

Week 4: Land and Agriculture in Southeast Asia

Boomgaard, Peter. "Labour, land, and capital markets in early modern Southeast Asia from the fifteenth to the nineteenth century." *Continuity and Change* 24, no. 1 (2009): 55-78.

OECD-FAO. *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2017-2026*, 2017, Chapter 2
<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7465e.pdf>

Weeks 5 - 8: Land Tenure and Land Reform in Southeast Asia

Cleary, Mark, and Peter Eaton. *Tradition and reform: land tenure and rural development in South-East Asia*. Oxford University Press, 1996, Various chapters

Jones, David S. "Land registration and administrative reform in Southeast Asian states: progress and constraints." *International Public Management Review* 11, no. 1 (2010): 67-89.

Diepart, Jean-Christophe. *The fragmentation of land tenure systems in Cambodia: peasants and the formalization of land rights*. (2015).

USAID. *Land tenure and property rights regional report: East and Southeast Asia* (2017)

Week 9: Land and Development in Indonesia

McCarthy, John F., and Kathryn Robinson, eds. *Land and development in Indonesia: Searching for the people's sovereignty*. ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, 2016, Chapters, 7, 10, and 11.

Week 10: Land and Commodity Production in Indonesia

Bissonnette, Jean-François. "Is oil palm agribusiness a sustainable development option for Indonesia? A review of issues and options." *Canadian Journal of Development Studies/Revue Canadienne D'études du Développement* 37, no. 4 (2016): 446-465.

Hamilton-Hart, Natasha. "The legal environment and incentives for change in property rights institutions." *World Development* 92 (2017): 167-176.

Pramudya, Eusebius Pantja, Otto Hospes, and C. J. A. M. Termeer. "Governing the palm-oil sector through finance: the changing roles of the Indonesian State." *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies* 53, no. 1 (2017): 57-82.

* Recommended:

Gaskell, Joanne C. "The role of markets, technology, and policy in generating palm-oil demand in Indonesia." *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies* 51, no. 1 (2015): 29-45.

Week 11: Land and Politics in Thailand

Warr, Peter. "Economic development in post-war Thailand." No. 2018-16. (2018).

Phatharathananunth, Somchai. "Rural transformations and democracy in Northeast Thailand." *Journal of Contemporary Asia* 46, no. 3 (2016): 504-519.

Hewison, Kevin. "Considerations on inequality and politics in Thailand." *Democratization* 21, no. 5 (2014): 846-866.

Week 12: Land Disputes in Vietnam

The Asia Foundation. *Public land disputes in Vietnam: a multi-actor analysis of five case studies with an East Asian comparative*. (2013). <http://asiafoundation.org/publications/pdf/1337>

Gillespie, John. "Social consensus and the meta-regulation of land-taking disputes in Vietnam." *Journal of Vietnamese Studies* 9, no. 3 (2014): 91-124.

* Recommended:

Gillespie, John, Hualing Fu, and Phạm Duy Nghĩa. *Land-Taking Disputes in East Asia: A Comparative Analysis and Implications for Vietnam*. (2014). UNDP Vietnam.

Kerkvliet, Benedict J. Tria. "Protests over land in Vietnam: Rightful resistance and more." *Journal of Vietnamese Studies* 9, no. 3 (2014): 19-54.

Week 13: Student Presentations

Week 14: Student Presentations

Week 15: Final Exam

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