

Political Economy of Southeast Asia

Fall 2019

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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide overview and analysis of both economic and political factors that shape contemporary Southeast Asia's position within the international system. Among others, the course is driven by a question: what domestic factors explain Southeast Asia's external relations, especially its responses to rising China and US-China competition? To answer this question, we will look into domestic economic and political conditions of each country in Southeast Asia. While analytical in focus, this course is structured with the goal of getting students familiarized with interlinked economic and political challenges faced by each country and the region as a whole. We will begin with a comparative survey of Southeast Asia's economic and political conditions and move into its external relations. This will be followed by country-specific discussions of domestic conditions.

Course Reading

There is no single text for this course. Some of the reading materials will be posted on the course website.

Course Requirements

1. Class participation 20%
2. Country profile project 30%
3. Final paper 50%

1. Participation: Students are expected to do the reading before they come to class and engage discussions.
2. Country profile: Students are required to put together a political and economic profile of a country of their choice. Further instructions will be provided at the beginning of the semester.
3. Final paper: Students are required to write a research paper of around 3,000 words, including references, footnotes, and appendices. Students should discuss their topics with me early in the semester and obtain my approval before proceeding. Students should be prepared to give brief presentations of the paper proposals. Further instructions will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

Course Schedule

Part 1: Overview

Week 1: Course Introduction and Southeast Asia as a Region

Week 2: Comparisons: Economic Development

Week 3: Comparisons: Political Institutions and Changes

Part 2: Southeast Asia's External Relations: Regional Integration and International Dimensions

Week 4: ASEAN Regional Integration: Progress

Week 5: ASEAN's External Relations: Geopolitics

Week 6: Southeast Asia-China Relations I

* Paper Topic Due

Week 7: Southeast Asia-China Relations II

Part 3: Country Studies

Week 8: Indonesia and Malaysia

Week 9 Singapore and Thailand

Week 10: Proposal Presentations

Week 11: Vietnam

Week 12: Philippines

Week 13 Cambodia, Myanmar, and Laos

Part 4: Wrap-up

Week 14: Economic Outlook Updates and Other Indicators Review

* Country Profile Due

Week 15: Wrap-up and Review

Week 16

* Final Paper Due