

## **Political Economy of Southeast Asia (8753.677)**

### **SNU GSIS, Fall 2025**

Tuesday 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
Building 140-1, Room 102

Instructor: Yoon Ah Oh (yoonah.oh@snu.ac.kr)  
Office Hours: Wed 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
TA: TBA

### **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.

### **Course Requirements and Evaluation**

1	Attendance and participation	10 %
2	Country comparison tables I	10 %
3	Country comparison tables II	10 %
4	Conference observation report	10 %
5	Build a dataset	25 %
6	Comparison project	35 %

#### **1. Attendance and general participation.**

**2 and 3. Country Comparison Tables I and II:** Students will compile country information tables. Detailed instructions will be provided.

**4. Conference Observation Report:** Students will watch an online conference panel and submit a one-page report. Detailed instructions will be provided.

**5. Build a Dataset:** Students will construct a long-format dataset on a chosen topic, accompanied by a technical note. Detailed instructions will be provided.

**6. Comparison Project:** Students will carry out a comparison project examining two sector, firms, or events, either within one country or across two countries. Toward the end of the semester, students will present their findings in class.

## Course Reading

The majority of course readings will be made available through eTL.

## Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Plagiarism, including presenting generative **AI software content** as your own, is a violation of academic integrity. It 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 Digital Devices for In-Person Classes

The use of electronic devices is **prohibited**. Violating this policy will negatively impact your participation grade. Students with approved accommodations from the Center for Students with Disabilities permitting the use of personal electronic devices must present the accommodation letter to the instructor in advance.

## Recording Policy

Video and/or audio recording of any course activity is **prohibited**. This includes using speech-to-text apps to take notes or transcribe lectures. 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.

## Attendance Policy

Students who are unable to attend class for legitimate reasons should contact the instructor and provide supporting documentation. Notify the instructor in advance unless it is an emergency. Students are responsible for making up any missed coursework or requirements. Accommodations will be provided for legally protected absences, such as those resulting from a student's participation in the Korean Reserve Forces training.

## Resources

### 1. Statistical Sources

World Bank World Development Indicators

[ASEANStats](#)

ADB Key Indicators

[ADB Country Dashboard](#)

IMF World Economic Outlook Database

IMF Direction of Statistics

[WITS Country at Glance](#)

[WITS Country Analysis](#)

[WTO Trade Profile](#)

[The Observatory of Economic Complexity](#)

World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index

[U.S. Energy Information Administration Country Profile](#)

### 2. Academic Journals with SE Asian Economic Focus

Journal of Southeast Asian Economies (published by ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute)

Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies (especially the Survey Recent Developments series)

### 3. Reports

ASEAN Investment Report

ADB Asian Development Outlook

World Bank Country Quarterly Update (for Indonesia, the Philippines, Myanmar)

OECD Country Reviews (Policy reform)

IMF Article IV Report

### 4. News Media

Nikkei Asia

<https://asia.nikkei.com/>

Fulcrum: Analysis on Southeast Asia (published by ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute)

<https://fulcrum.sg/>

## **Course Schedule**

**Week 1: Introduction and Course Overview**

**Week 2: Historical Overview of Southeast Asian Development**

**Week 3: Understanding Southeast Asian Development: Industrialization, Trade and FDI**

**Week 4: Policies and Infrastructure**

**Week 5: Industries and Firms**

**Week 6: Online Conference Observation (Chuseok Holiday)**

**Week 7: Agriculture**

**Week 8: Economic Linkages between Southeast Asia and China**

**Week 9: Indonesia**

**Week 10: The Philippines (ASEAN Week)**

**Week 11: Vietnam**

**Week 12: Thailand and Malaysia**

**Week 13: Cambodia and Myanmar**

**Week 14: Student Presentations I**

**Week 15: Student Presentations II**

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