The course provides an introduction to the history, political institutions, and economic development of Southeast Asia. Among the countries covered are Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. We look at the history of the region, including the pre-colonial period, the different forms of colonialism, the impact of World War II, and the struggles for independence.  We consider the impediments in democracy and economic development and why some states in Southeast Asia have been able to overcome these obstacles while others have not. We then examine the impact of authoritarian leaders, political institutions, and industrialization on Southeast Asia’s political and economic landscape in the present.