

POSC 352: POLITICS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA FALL 2018

Professor Jinhee Lee Choung

Monday/Wednesday 10:00 – 11:20 a.m., VKC 256

Office Hours (VKC 318): Wednesday 11:30 – 12:30 p.m., or by appointment

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This course provides an introduction to the history, political institutions, and economic development of Southeast Asia (SEA). Readings and discussions are divided into three sections. Section 1 reviews 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. Section 2 is a short overview of some of the key theoretical themes central to SEA politics. Then in Section 3, we survey five of SEA's eleven states: Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand (Vietnam, Cambodia, Burma, Laos, Brunei, and East Timor are excluded). We examine various impediments to democracy and economic development, and why some states in SEA have been able to overcome these obstacles while others have not. Understanding the impact of authoritarian leaders, political institutions, communal and mass politics, and other factors will help us articulate SEA's current political and economic landscape.

The course assumes no previous knowledge of SEA, but students are expected to have some familiarity with the major themes, concepts, and debates in political science. The course is designed for students to achieve the following objectives:

1. Gain a working knowledge of the *political* history, economy, and institutions of Southeast Asia.
2. Be able to analyze the region's current events and issues (especially pertaining to politics) based on political science theories and facts.
3. Improve written and oral communication skills.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Attendance is mandatory, and students are required to complete all assignments on time and take the exam when it is scheduled. A make-up exam or extension will be given only under strict and verified circumstances (*e.g.*, a medical emergency or a required participation in a USC-sponsored activity). I reserve the right to decide on the validity of all excuses.

1. **Class participation & attendance (20%).** Class lectures are designed to analyze and synthesize the readings rather than summarize them, so students are expected to attend lectures having read the assigned materials. You should expect to be called on to answer questions and are encouraged to ask questions and actively contribute to class discussions and debates. You will be evaluated on the attendance (absences and tardiness) and the quality and frequency of your contributions. Missing more than five lectures (unexcused) or persistent tardiness will result in a deduction in your final course grade.

Electronic devices. Laptops, e-readers, tablets, cell phones, pagers, and the like must be turned off during class except with special permission from your instructor. Studies have shown that using these devices in class leads to lower comprehension and reduced productivity. In fact, students who take notes using longhand retain and process information much better. Anyone found to be in violation of this policy will be asked to leave the classroom immediately.¹

2. Two class presentations (20% total):

- a. Individual (10%): Prepare a slide presentation on a major case (*e.g.*, political event, institution, organization, leader) and its significance. More detailed instructions will be given separately.
- b. Group (10%): Prepare a slide presentation and handouts on one of the two designated topics. More detailed instructions will be given separately.

3. Analytical paper #1 (15%), 5-6 pages (1,250 – 1,500 words), due in class on Monday, September 24, 2018.

- a. The essay question will be passed out on Monday, September 10 with further instructions.
- b. Answer the given question with a clear thesis/argument and support it with evidence from the assigned readings. An “A” paper will have coherent organization, critical and logical analysis, lucid writing, and specific and relevant references to the supporting texts. No additional or outside research is required.
- c. Late papers will be penalized half of a letter grade for every 12 hour-period after the due date and time.
- d. Please turn in a hard copy in class and submit paper through *turnitin.com* on Blackboard.

4. Midterm on Wednesday, October 31, 2018 (20%). It will consist of short essay questions.

5. Analytical paper #2 (Final, 25%), 8-10 pages (2,000 to 2,500 words), due by Noon on Monday, December 10, 2018.

- a. The question on a topic covered in class will be given out on the last week of class (Monday, November 26, 2018).
- b. Submit through the *turnitin.com* link on Blackboard.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to do their own work; this holds, especially so, for the writing assignments you have for the class. All assignments are expected to reflect the student’s

¹ Studies have shown that “computers and other digital devices increase the [temptation and likelihood of multitasking](#), leading to lower comprehension and reduced productivity” (Katrina Schwartz, “Taking Notes: Is The Pen Still Mightier Than the Keyboard?”, [ww2.kqed.org](#)); that students who take notes using longhand retain and process information much better ([Psychological Science](#), June 2014: 1159-1168); and students who media multitask during class may also impede the learning of their classmates ([Computers & Education](#), [Volume 62](#), March 2013: 24–31).

careful research, original thinking, and writing. Citations must be provided for the ideas, content, or other materials that originate from other authors. Studying together is welcome; working together on writing assignments is not. Cheating will not be tolerated, and those who do will receive a failing grade on the assignment or the exam and/or for the entire course. Please check <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS> for the University guidelines on academic integrity. If you have any questions about this, please see me or contact the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards (SJACS). You may also learn more and take a tutorial found at http://www.usc.edu/libraries/about/reference/tutorials/academic_integrity/index.php.

Roving Reference: Ask-A-Librarian Research Assistance

http://www.usc.edu/libraries/services/ask_a_librarian/askme/

“This in-person service brings a reference professional to you at the point of need for one-on-one consultations. Librarians maintain consultation/office hours at the Writing Center Conference room, situated in the Language Lab. Students visiting the Writing Center for help with the mechanics of writing their papers can simultaneously get assistance from reference librarians on finding and citing their sources, as well as researching on a topic. The program will be expanding to more locations in the near future. For further information or questions on Roving Reference/Librarian service, contact Susan Gardner, susangar@usc.edu, or Felicia Palsson, fpalsson@usc.edu. Consult this Web site for more information and updates.”

Organizing Your Social Sciences Research Paper

<http://libguides.usc.edu/content.php?pid=83009&sid=615849>

Disability: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible, preferably within the first two weeks. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number is (213) 740-0776.

Student Counseling Services

Student Counseling Services provides free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. The phone number is (213) 740-7711 (on call, 24/7).

(<https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>)

Student Support & Advocacy

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues (*e.g.*, personal, financial, academic) adversely affecting their success as a student. The phone number is (213) 821-4710.

(<https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/sssa/>)

Other notes:

1. Communication is best done face-to-face during office hours or after class. I encourage you to come with any questions, musings, or concerns you might have. When office visits are not possible, email me. I cannot guarantee, however, an immediate response. Allow at least 24 hours of turn-around time.

2. Lecture slides, study guides, and announcements will be posted on the course page on Blackboard (<https://blackboard.usc.edu/>). Please check Blackboard or your USC-registered email regularly for class announcements.
3. Photography, taping, and recording of lectures are not allowed. Notes and lecture slides of this class may not be exchanged or distributed for any commercial purpose, for compensation, or for any purpose other than your personal study.
4. As the semester progresses, there may arise a need to make adjustments to the reading assignments and schedule. I will do my best to offer advance notice and minimize conflict.

Readings: This is a challenging course. Given the breadth of topics that a “survey course” such as this must cover, there is a relatively heavy reading load. On average, students will be expected to read about forty to fifty pages (two articles or chapters) for each class. The following books are required for purchase. Additional required readings are downloadable from the library electronic reserves system (ARES: <https://usc.ares.atlas-sys.com/>). The few readings that may be unavailable through USC libraries will be posted on Blackboard.

1. Osborne, Milton (2016). *Southeast Asia: An Introductory History*. Sydney: Allen and Unwin; 12th edition.
2. Bertrand, Jacques (2013). *Political Change in Southeast Asia*. Cambridge University Press.
3. Kingsbury, Damien (2017). *Politics in Contemporary Southeast Asia: Authority, Democracy and Political Change*. Routledge.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

I. INTRODUCTION

Class 1 (8/20): Course overview

Class 2 (8/22): Current affairs

- News articles posted on Blackboard.

Class 3 (8/27): Introduction to the region

- Osborne, Chapter 1.
- Bertrand, Chapter 1.
- Kingsbury, Chapter 1.

Class 4 (8/29): Southeast Asia before the West

- Osborne, Chapters 2 – 4.

*** Class 5 (9/3): NO CLASS (Labor Day)**

Class 6 (9/5): Colonial transformations

- Osborne, Chapters 5 – 7.
- Owen, Norman, ed. (2005). “Consolidation of Colonial Power and Centralization of State Authority” in *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia: A New History*. University of Hawaii Press: 201-221.

Class 7 (9/10): Nationalism, communism and the struggle for independence

- Osborne, Chapters 8 & 9.

Class 8 (9/12): Revolution and revolt (1): Indonesia & Vietnam

- Osborne, Chapters 10 & 12.

Class 9 (9/17): Revolution and revolt (2): The Philippines & Malaysia

- Osborne, Chapter 13.
- Owen, Norman, ed. (2005). “The Philippines, 1896-1972: From Revolution to Martial Law” in *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia: A New History*. University of Hawaii Press: 283-295.

Class 10 (9/19): Review**Class 11 (9/24): Due: Critical Essay #1**

- ❖ *Burma VJ: Reporter i et Lukket Land (Burma VJ: Reporting from a Closed Country)* (2008)

II. ANALYTICAL THEMES

Class 12 (9/26): Authority, legitimacy and power

- Hardin, Russell (2007). “Compliance, Consent, and Legitimacy” in Carles Boix and Susan C. Stokes, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*. Oxford University Press: 236-255.
- Kingsbury, Damien (2005). Chapter 2: “Authority and Legitimacy,” in *Southeast Asia: A Political Profile*. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 24-47.

Class 13 (10/1): Economic development

- Felker, Greg (2018). “The Political Economy of Southeast Asia” in Alice D. Ba and Mark Beeson, eds., *Contemporary Southeast Asia*. 3rd edition. Palgrave Macmillan: 70-90.

Class 14 (10/3): Political processes

- Kingsbury, Chapter 2.
- Arugay, Aries A. and Aim Sinpeng (2018). “Varieties of Authoritarianism and the Limits of Democracy in Southeast Asia” in Alice D. Ba and Mark Beeson, eds., *Contemporary Southeast Asia*. 3rd edition. Palgrave Macmillan: 91-110.

III. THE STATES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

Class 15 (10/8): Indonesia – The promise and peril of concentrated power

- Bertrand, Chapter 2.
- Kingsbury, Chapter 12.

Class 16 (10/10): Indonesia (continued)

- Ufen, Andreas (2013). Chapter 3: “Lipset and Rokkan in Southeast Asia” in Dirk Tomsa and Andreas Ufen, eds., *Party Politics in Southeast Asia*. Routledge: 40-61.
- Gunn, Geoffrey C. (2018). “Shoring Up the Pancasila State.” *Asian Survey*, 58(1): 166-173.

Class 17 (10/15): The Philippines – Origins and consequences of a weak state

- Bertrand, Chapter 3.
- Kingsbury, Chapter 11.

Class 18 (10/17): The Philippines (continued)

- Hicken, Allen (2015). Chapter 13: “Party and Party System Institutionalization in the Philippines,” in Allen Hicken & Erik Martinez Kuhonta, eds, *Party System Institutionalization in Asia: Democracies, Autocracies, and the Shadows of the Past*: 307-327.
- Tigno, Jorge V. (2018). “Popularity Breeds Contempt.” *Asian Survey*, 58(1): 142-148

Class 19 (10/22): Singapore – The price of prosperity

- Bertrand, Chapter 4 (Singapore).
- Kingsbury, Chapter 7.
- Tan, Kenneth Paul (2018). “Structural Changes and Political Challenges.” *Asian Survey*, 58(1): 188-193.
- ❖ *Film: Singapore: The Price of Prosperity.*

Class 20 (10/24): NO CLASS

Class 21 (10/29): Review

Class 22 (10/31): Midterm examination

Class 23 (11/5): Malaysia – Development in a divided society

- Bertrand, Chapter 4 (Malaysia).
- Kingsbury, Chapter 6.

Class 24 (11/7): Malaysia (continued)

- Weiss, Meredith (2015). Chapter 2: “The Antidemocratic Potential of Party System Institutionalization: Malaysia as Morality Tale?” in Allen Hicken & Erik Martinez Kuhonta, eds, *Party System Institutionalization in Asia: Democracies, Autocracies, and the Shadows of the Past*: 25-48.
- Milner, Anthony (2018). “Clever Politics, Deeper Transformation.” *Asian Survey* 58(1): 174-180.

Class 25 (11/12): Thailand – Bifurcation and the bureaucratic polity

- Bertrand, Chapter 5.
- Kingsbury, Chapter 10.

Class 26 (11/14): Thailand (continued)

- Hicken, Allen (2006). “Party Fabrication: Constitutional Reform and the Rise of Thai Rak Thai.” *Journal of East Asian Studies* 6(3): 381-407.
- Hewison, Kevin (2010). Chapter 7: “Thailand’s conservative democratization” in Chu, Yin-wah and Siu-lun Wong, eds., *East Asia’s New Democracies: Deepening, Reversal, Non-liberal Alternatives*. New York: Routledge: 122-140.

Class 27 (11/19): Group presentation 1: Vietnam War

Class 28 (11/21): No Class – Happy Thanksgiving!

Class 29 (11/26): Group presentation 2: Rohingya Crisis (Myanmar)

Class 30 (11/28): Wrap-up & course review

- ❖ **Monday, December 10, 2018: Final analytical paper (25%) due by 12 pm Noon via *turnitin.com* on Blackboard.**