



**** UPDATED 31 December 2020 --- THIS VERSION IS SUBJECT TO REVISION ****

School of Social Sciences

Term 1, 2020-2021

COR-POSC 2604 – POLITICS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA (PANDEMIC EDITION) LOCATION: ONLINE ONLY

Instructor Jacob Ricks
 Assistant Professor of Political Science
Tel: +65 6808 5460
Email: jacobricks@smu.edu.sg
Office: School of Social Science, Level 4, Room 4079
Office Hours: by appointment

Class Meeting Room: Online only

PRE-REQUISITE/ CO-REQUISITE/ MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE COURSE(S)

There are no pre-requisites for this course, but students would find it helpful to have taken an introductory political science (i.e. POSC 003) course prior to enrolling.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

While often overshadowed by their neighbors to the north, the nations of Southeast Asia offer scholars a veritable smorgasbord of political topics to study. Variation both between and within countries provides the perfect opportunity for social scientists to learn about the role of institutions, individuals, and cultures in political interaction.

This course will provide a brief introduction to some of these issues. We'll consider diverse topics such as the state's role in economic development, national identity formation, the persistence of authoritarian regimes, transitions to democracy, and the role of Islam in politics. Each of these topics will be driven primarily by a recent articles or book excerpts on Southeast Asia countries. Most are written by political scientists, but a few come from the realm of political anthropology, history, or sociology. Some of these incorporate comparative case studies while others focus on a single country.

For each subject in the course, we will discuss the political science literature and theory regarding the topic before discussing the assigned readings. We will consider the author's methodology, research design, and whether or not her argument is persuasive in light of other possible approaches. While it is important to be analytic regarding the literature, I encourage you to avoid merely criticizing the approach. You should learn from it and gain ideas of how to ask your own research questions and about what types of evidence you might need to answer them.

One negative of this class is that, in learning about a region of eleven countries, there's just too much to cover in one term. We will focus on Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Singapore.

COURSE GOALS

This course has a few major goals. The first is that students will become familiar with some of the most important and most recent literature in political science regarding Southeast Asia. This should be very enjoyable, as many of these scholars are engaged in cutting-edge research on vital topics in the region.

Second, you will become familiar with the costs and benefits of different methodological approaches to research. These will include both quantitative and qualitative research. This should give you ideas about how you wish to conduct your own research.

Finally, by reading the latest research on the politics and government of Southeast Asia, students should be able to develop ideas for their own research questions. By the end of the course, each student will have participated in preparing a literature review.

Specific Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should

- 1) Develop a deeper understanding of politics in Southeast Asia.
- 2) Understand the challenges facing the region.
- 3) Apply political science theories to understand events in the region.
- 4) Be able to critically evaluate the information presented in newspapers, academic literature, and policy pieces.
- 5) Demonstrate their analytical skills by developing a literature review.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Participation	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%
Response Paper	15%
Literature Review	25%
Total	100%

*** The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Matters requires the following statement to be shared with you: "No questions verbatim from past year papers or published test banks will be used for the graded continuous assessments and examinations in this course." ***

As we are dealing with the global COVID-19 pandemic, certain adjustments have been made to the course and our course materials. I appreciate your patience as we mutually learn about the process of online instruction and assessment.

Class Participation (15%):

Your participation requires your attendance at the synchronous portion of the lecture. If you know you will be absent ahead of time, talk to me before-hand.

You must also make contributions in class. Usually the first half of class will focus on lecture. The second half will involve more discussion. I will send out a series of questions each week which you should prepare to answer during the second half of class. This will require that you complete the readings and be prepared to refer to them in your answers.

This also requires that you be respectful of opinions and ideas expressed by other members of the class. If you disagree with something said, you are encouraged to make a thoughtful response. Lively discussion is encouraged, but personal attacks or mocking will not be tolerated.

Midterm Exam (20%): This will be a take-home essay exam. You will be given 24 hours to respond to a set of questions (Don't worry; it will be designed to take no more than 90 minutes to complete).

Final Exam (25%): This will be a two-hour essay exam, which will be administered during the scheduled time for the final. You will be provided a set of questions regarding course material, which you must respond to within the two-hour period. The final will be open book and open note, but any hints of plagiarism will be punished quite severely. Further instructions will be provided in the latter half of the semester.

Response Paper (15%): Each student will be responsible for writing a short (maximum 1,000 word) response paper during the first half of the term. The paper will respond to one reading OR one week's readings and must follow proper essay format. You can choose any topic, as long as we have not discussed it in class (i.e. if you wish to respond to readings on Islam in Indonesia, the assignment must be turned in on or before week 6). I expect you to actively engage the readings by developing an argument either in support or against a claim by the week's author(s). This includes having a thesis statement, using information from the readings to support your claims, and having a conclusion. *The paper is due by 10:00 AM on Friday, October 2 – the essay must be submitted via e-learn dropbox. Earlier submission is possible!*

Literature Review Essay (25%): You will be responsible for a literature review on any topic of your choice related to politics in Southeast Asia. The literature review is not a complete research essay, but it does involve the following components: (1) identification of a research question and thesis statement; (2) a thorough engagement with some of the extant literature on the topic; and (3) a discussion of possible contributions of your thesis to the literature.

UC Santa Cruz has an excellent resource on writing a literature review, which you should consult as you develop your essay: <https://guides.library.ucsc.edu/write-a-literature-review>

Your literature review should be no longer than 2,500 words, inclusive of references, footnotes, endnotes, tables, figures, and anything else you might feel necessary to submit. In other words, the total word limit is 2,500.

- a. Papers must follow the framework we will discuss in class. Grading will be based on this framework.

- b. You must use at least 10 sources for your paper. These should be reputable, such as peer reviewed journal articles, policy documents from governments or international agencies, newspapers or newsmagazines, and books (Wikipedia does not count). They must also be cited correctly.
- c. I suggest meeting with me at some point to talk about your essay (either via zoom or in person). This is not a mandatory meeting, but it would likely help.
- d. Proposals to be turned in electronically via eLearn no later than 10.00 am on Friday, 13 November 2020

Academic Integrity

All students must abide by SMU's code of academic conduct. Please pay special attention to avoiding the issue of plagiarism, defined by the university as "using the ideas, data, or language of another without specific or proper acknowledgement." I expect that you will properly cite your sources. If you need assistance with this, please see Purdue's website on citation styles (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/>). When in doubt, cite it!

I will enforce this requirement strictly and impose harsh penalties for those who disregard the university's code of academic conduct.

Speak to me if you have any questions about plagiarism. It is better to ask me beforehand rather than hand in a plagiarized piece of work and suffer the consequences.

Accessibility

SMU strives to make learning experiences accessible for all. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers due to disability, please let me know immediately. You are also welcome to contact the university's disability services team if you have questions or concerns about academic provisions: included@smu.edu.sg.

Please be aware that the accessible tables in our seminar room should remain available for students who require them (we'll be online, of course, but I'm asked to post this by the university).

Emergency Preparedness for Teaching and Learning (EPTL)

As part of emergency preparedness, Instructors may conduct lessons online via the WebEx platform during the term, to prepare students for online learning. During an actual emergency, students will be notified to access the WebEx platform for their online lessons. The class schedule will mirror the current face-to-face class timetable unless otherwise stated.

* Not in effect for this term, as we'll be online

Copyright Infringement

Please note that only copyright holders are entitled to reproduce their work, publish their work, perform their work in public, communicate their work to the public and make an adaptation of their work. Hence, making course materials (owned by the faculty) available for sale or posting such works on websites for gain, is strictly prohibited. Disciplinary action will be taken against those found infringing copyright

Late Assignments

If, for some reason, you are unable to submit an assignment on time, I will accept it late with the following conditions. The moment the assignment is late it loses $\frac{1}{4}$ of its value (i.e. a perfect 100 paper would receive a 75; an 80 paper would receive a 60). The deduction holds for 2 days. After 2 days, each additional day late will be another 10% deduction.

Contacting Me

You can expect responses to e-mails within approximately 24 hours. The only exception is if I am travelling or Sundays. If you send an e-mail on Saturday night, you may not hear back from me until Monday morning.

Due to the pandemic, I have also initiated a Telegram account (username: @ProfRicks), which you may use to contact me in case of academic emergencies (please don't send me texts about your cat at 1 am). As with e-mails, I will respond in due course (usually within 24 hours). In general, though, e-mail should be your first method of contact.

Social media – a few students have found me on Facebook or other social media. I will not accept any friend requests while you remain a student. Once you have graduated, you may feel free to add me and I may or may not confirm your request. If I don't add you right away, don't take it personally; I frequently go for 6-8 months without adding anyone then approve multiple requests at once. Plus, my social media accounts are extremely boring.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND EXPECTATIONS

This class is scheduled to meet on Monday mornings from 8.15 am-11.30 am, and, due to the pandemic situation, we will be meeting via Zoom during that time period. Students will have read the assigned readings before coming to class. At least 2 days before class meeting, I will send out a series of questions about the readings via e-mail. Students should review these prior to class and be prepared to answer them.

Following the protocols provided to SMU instructors, I will provide an asynchronous recording of a portion of my lecture (approximately 1 hour). This will count for the first hour of our class meeting (i.e. approx. 8.15 – 9.20 am). You may, of course, watch it at a different time, but that will be the dedicated period for the asynchronous section of the lecture. At 9.30 am, unless otherwise announced, we will begin the synchronous discussion. This will involve some lecture, some small group assignments and video clips, and class discussion, partly based on the reading questions I sent you earlier. The exception is the first week of class, which will be a completely synchronous meeting.

TEXT AND READINGS

There is only one book required for this course. It is also available on course reserves in the library. I heavily recommend that you buy the Osborne book, as it is only \$29 at the bookstore, and it's a very nice reference to the history of this region. In other words, it's just

a good book to have around the house. As one of my friends has told me, “Hey, don’t be so kiamsiap lah!”

Milton Osborne. 2016. *Southeast Asia: An Introductory History* (Crows Nest, Australia: Allen and Unwin).

All other readings are available via the library’s online system, accessible via elearn and/or the library’s online digital catalogue. If you cannot find a reading, please contact the TA first before contacting me.

*** I reserve the right to adjust the reading schedule as necessary. ***

WEEKLY LESSON PLANS

	Topic	Readings (To be completed before meeting!)	Assignments
1	Intro to class, Early History of SEA (All SEA)	Osborne – Chapters 1-7	
2	Colonialism, War, Independence (All SEA)	Osborne – Chapters 8-15	
3	Nationalism and Identity (All SEA)	Anthony Reid. 2010. <i>Imperial Alchemy: Nationalism and Political Identity in Southeast Asia</i> (NY: Cambridge University Press), Chapter 1. CR Benedict Anderson. 1999. “Indonesian Nationalism Today and in the Future.” <i>Indonesia</i> 67: 1-11. Amy Liu and Jacob Ricks. 2012. “Coalitions and Language Politics: Policy Shifts in Southeast Asia.” <i>World Politics</i> 64(3): 476-506. Recommended (<u>not</u> necessary for class): G. William Skinner. 1960. “Change and Persistence in Chinese Culture Overseas: A Comparison of Thailand and Java.” <i>Journal of the South Seas Society</i> 16: 86-100. (from Prof.)	
4	Mixing of Traditional and Modern State Systems (Introduction to Thailand)	Rob Dayley. 2019. <i>Southeast Asia in the New International Era</i> (New York: Routledge). Chapter 2, “Thailand” (pp. 21-56) Kevin Hewison and Kengkij Kitirianglarp. 2010. “Thai-Style Democracy: The Royalist Struggle for Thailand’s Politics.” In S. Ivarsson & L. Isager (eds). <i>Saying the Unsayable</i> (Copenhagen: NIAS), Chapter 7, p 179-202.	

		<p>Thongchai Winichakul. 2014. "The Monarchy and Anti-Monarchy," in <i>"Good Coup" Gone Bad</i>, ed. Pavin Chachavalpongpun. (Singapore: ISEAS), Chapter 4, p 79-108.</p> <p>Recommended (not necessary for class):</p> <p>Anonymous. 2018. "Anti-Royalism in Thailand Since 2006: Ideological Shifts and Resistance." <i>Journal of Contemporary Asia</i>. 48(3): 363-394.</p> <p>Ruth McVey. 2000. "Of Greed and Violence and Other Signs of Progress." In <i>Money & Power in Provincial Thailand</i>, ed. Ruth McVey. (Singapore: ISEAS), 1-29.</p> <p>Benedict Anderson. 1990. "Murder and Progress in Modern Siam." <i>New Left Review</i> 181: 33-48.</p> <p>Prajak Kongkirati. 2014. "The Rise and Fall of Electoral Violence in Thailand: Changing Rules, Structures, and Power Landscapes, 1997-2011." <i>Contemporary Southeast Asia</i> 36(3): 386-416.</p>	
5	<p>The Military and Politics</p> <p>(Thailand continued)</p>	<p>James Ockey. 2006. "Thailand's Professional Soldiers and Coup-Making: The Coup of 2006" <i>Crossroads</i> 19(1): 95-127.</p> <p>Paul Chambers and Napisa Waitookiat. 2016. "The Resilience of Monarchised Military in Thailand." <i>Journal of Contemporary Asia</i> 46(3): 425-444.</p> <p>Punchada Sirivunnabood and Jacob Ricks. 2016. "Professionals and Soldiers: Measuring Professionalism in the Thai Military." <i>Pacific Affairs</i> 89(1): 7-30.</p> <p>Jacob I. Ricks. 2019. "Thailand's 2019 Vote: The General's Election." <i>Pacific Affairs</i> 92(3): 419-433.</p> <p>Recommended (not necessary for class): Paul Chambers. 2013. "Military "Shadows" in Thailand since the 2006 Coup." <i>Asian Affairs</i>. 40(2): 67-82.</p>	
6	<p>Politics and Religion</p> <p>(Introduction to Indonesia)</p>	<p>Rob Dayley. 2019. <i>Southeast Asia in the New International Era</i> (New York: Routledge). Chapter 8, "Indonesia" (pp. 177-205)</p> <p>Jeremy Menchik. 2014. "Productive Intolerance: Godly Nationalism in Indonesia." <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i>, 56(3): 591-621.</p> <p>Marcus Mietzner. 2018. "Fighting Illiberalism with Illiberalism: Islamist Populism and Democratic Deconsolidation in Indonesia." <i>Pacific Affairs</i>, 91 (2): 261-282.</p>	

		<p>Recommended (not necessary for class): Thomas B. Pepinsky, R. William Liddle, and Saiful Mujani. 2012. "Testing Islam's Political Advantage: Evidence from Indonesia." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 56(3): 584-600.</p> <p>Michael Buehler. 2016. <i>The Politics of Shari'a Law: Islamic Activists and the State in Democratizing Indonesia</i>. New York: Cambridge University Press.</p>	
7	<p>Democratization I: Indonesia's Success (?)</p> <p>(Indonesia continued)</p>	<p>Jamie Davidson. 2018. <i>Indonesia: Twenty Years of Democracy</i>. New York: Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Recommended (not necessary for class): R. E. Elson. 2001. <i>Suharto: A Political Biography</i> (New York: Cambridge), Chapter 10, pp 267-296. CR</p> <p>Dan Slater. 2018. "Party Cartelization, Indonesian-Style: Presidential Power-Sharing and the Contingency of Democratic Opposition." <i>Journal of East Asian Studies</i> 18: 23-46.</p> <p>Christian von Luebke. 2009. "The Political Economy of Local Governance: Findings from an Indonesian Field Study." <i>Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies</i> 45(2): 201-230.</p>	<p>Final possible date for submitting Response Paper –10:00 am, Friday, 2 Oct 2020</p>
8	Recess (no class)		
9	<p>Authoritarian Transitions: Cambodia</p>	<p>Rob Dayley. 2019. <i>Southeast Asia in the New International Era</i> (New York: Routledge). Chapter 5, "Cambodia" (pp. 107-130)</p> <p>Kimly Ngoun. 2020. "Adaptive Authoritarian Resilience: Cambodian Strongman's Quest for Legitimacy." <i>Journal of Contemporary Asia</i> Online ahead of print (https://doi.org/10.1080/00472336.2020.1832241).</p> <p>Lee Morgenbesser. 2019. "Cambodia's Transition to Hegemonic Authoritarianism." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 30(1): 158-171.</p>	
10	<p>Party Regimes I: Malaysia</p> <p>(Intro to Malaysia)</p>	<p>Rob Dayley. 2019. <i>Southeast Asia in the New International Era</i> (New York: Routledge). Chapter 10, "Malaysia" (pp. 221-243)</p> <p>Dan Slater. 2003. "Iron Cage in an Iron Fist: Authoritarian Institutions and the Personalization of Power in Malaysia." <i>Comparative Politics</i> 36(1): 81-101.</p> <p>Kai Ostwald. 2017. <i>Malaysia's Electoral Process: The Methods and Costs of Perpetuating UMNO Rule</i>. ISEAS Trends 2017 no. 9. Accessible:</p>	

		<p>https://www.iseas.edu.sg/images/pdf/TRS19_17.pdf</p> <p>Recommended (not necessary for class): Bridget Welsh. 2013. "Malaysia's Elections: A Step Backward." <i>Journal of Democracy</i>. 24(4): 136-150</p> <p>Kai Ostwald. 2013. "How to Win a Lost Election: Malapportionment and Malaysia's 2013 General Election." <i>The Round Table</i> 102(6): 521-532.</p>	
11	<p>Democratization II: Malaysia</p> <p>(Malaysia continued)</p>	<p>Walid Jumblatt Abdullah. 2019. "The Mahathir Effect in Malaysia's 2018 Election: The Role of Credible Personalities in Regime Transitions." <i>Democratization</i> 26(3): 521-536.</p> <p>Sebastian Dettman. 2020. "Authoritarian Innovations and Democratic Reform in the 'New Malaysia.'" <i>Democratization</i> DOI: 10.1080/13510347.2019.1705791</p> <p>Meredith Weiss. 2020. "Duelling Networks: Relational Clientelism in Electoral-Authoritarian Malaysia." <i>Democratization</i> 27(1): 100-118.</p> <p>Recommended (not necessary for class): Meredith Weiss. 2020. "Legacies of the Cold War in Malaysia: Anything but Communism." <i>Journal of Contemporary Asia</i> 50(4): 511-529.</p> <p>Bridget Welsh. 2019. "Euphoria Dashed: Malaysia's Struggle with Political Transition." <i>Global Asia</i> 14(1): 84-96.</p>	
12	<p>Party Regimes II: Singapore</p>	<p>Rob Dayley. 2019. <i>Southeast Asia in the New International Era</i> (New York: Routledge). Chapter 11, "Singapore" (pp. 244-258)</p> <p>Netina Tan. 2013. "Manipulating Electoral Laws in Singapore." <i>Electoral Studies</i> 32: 632-643.</p> <p>Steven Oliver and Kai Ostwald. 2018. "Explaining Elections in Singapore: Dominant Party Resilience and Valence Politics." <i>Journal of East Asian Studies</i> 18: 129-156.</p> <p><u>Non-Academic Thought Piece:</u> Kirsten Han. 2017. "The Silhouette of Oppression." <i>Spuddings Blog</i>, https://medium.com/@kixes/the-silhouette-of-oppression-1ad887bb2a66</p> <p>Recommended (not necessary for class): Elvin Ong. 2015. "Complementary Institutions in Authoritarian Regimes: The Everyday Politics of Constituency Service in Singapore." <i>Journal of East Asian Studies</i> 15: 361-390.</p>	

		<p>Elvin Ong. 2019. "Online Repression and Self-Censorship: Evidence from Southeast Asia." <i>Government and Opposition</i> online first. Doi:10.1017/gov.2019.18</p> <p>Netina Tan. 2015. "Institutionalized Succession and Hegemonic Party Cohesion in Singapore." In <i>Party System Institutionalization in Asia</i>, ed. Allen Hicken and Erik Martinez Kuhonta (NY: Cambridge University Press), 49-73.</p>	
13	<p>Development, Legitimacy, and the future of Government</p> <p>(Singapore continued)</p>	<p>W.G. Huff. 1995. "The Developmental State, Government, and Singapore's Economic Development since 1960." <i>World Development</i> 23(8): 1421-1438.</p> <p>Dan Slater. 2010. <i>Ordering Power</i>. (New York: Cambridge University Press), Chapter 8, pp 229-241. CR.</p> <p>Tan Kim Song and Manu Bhaskaran. 2015. "The Role of the State in Singapore: Pragmatism in Pursuit of Growth." <i>The Singapore Economic Review</i> 60(3).</p> <p>Recommended (not necessary for class): Dan Slater. 2012. "Strong-state Democratization in Malaysia and Singapore." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 23(2): 19-33.</p>	<p>Final date for submitting literature reviews – 10:00 am, Friday, 13 Nov 2020</p>
14	Study Break.		
15	Final exam.		