

INTL 4780H 60058 Special Topics in Comparative Politics (Honors)  
Politics of Southeast Asia  
Fall 2024

T/Th 12:45-2:00 PM, Leconte Hall 322

Dr. Jangai Jap  
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-4 pm, by appointment  
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### **Course Overview**

Southeast Asia, located south of China and east of the Indian subcontinent, is home to over 675 million people, representing about 8.5% of the world's population. This course aims to introduce honors undergraduate students to the politics of Southeast Asian countries and explore how these political dynamics inform major themes in comparative politics, including regime transitions, democracy and democratic backsliding, institutions, ethnic politics, and political violence.

The course begins with a brief introduction to the region's geography, people, and pre-independence history. We will then survey the politics of individual countries, starting with mainland Southeast Asia and moving to maritime Southeast Asia. For each country, we will focus on contemporary politics, regime types, and recent major events and challenges shaping its trajectory. Additionally, we will engage with cutting-edge research from the region, examining how it builds on and contributes to existing literature in comparative politics. The course will then conclude with a brief examination of regional relations in Southeast Asia.

Class meetings will generally consist of a 45-minute lecture followed by a seminar-style discussion.

### **Learning Objectives**

The objective of this course is to improve critical thinking, analytical writing, and research skills through the study of Southeast Asia politics. By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify key figures, events and political parties/organizations that have shaped recent political developments of Southeast Asian countries,
- Ask informed questions about history and politics of Southeast Asia and provide critical answers to these questions,
- Analyze ways in which the politics of Southeast Asia support and/or challenge prevailing concepts and theories in comparative politics, and
- Demonstrate knowledge of region through written assignments and class discussions.

## Course Requirements

### Readings

Students are expected to read about 40-60 pages per week. Most of the readings will be either journal articles or book chapters accessible through the library. We will read several chapters from the following books which you might consider purchasing.

- Osborne, Milton. *Southeast Asia: An Introductory History*, 2020.
- Kymlicka, Will, and Baogang He, eds. *Multiculturalism in Asia*. Oxford University Press, 2005.

Complete the readings prior to coming to class. Failure to do so will be noticeable during class discussions.

Students are also encouraged to keep up with news on Southeast Asia. Check out the following English-language sources:

- The [New Mandala](#)
- The [Radio Free Asia](#)
- Singapore's [Straits Times](#)
- Malaysia's [Malaysiakini](#)
- Thailand's [The Nation](#)
- Indonesia's [Jakarta Post](#)
- Myanmar's [Irrawaddy](#)
- Philippines' [Daily Inquirer](#)

Your course grade is composed of the following:

1. Map quiz – 2.5% [M]  
This is an in-class quiz is scheduled for the fourth class meeting on August 27, 2024. By then, students should be familiar with the region's basic geography. Detailed expectations will be provided on August 22, 2024.
2. Country presentation – 2.5% [M]  
Once during the semester, students will give a short presentation (no more than 5 minutes) on the topic of their choosing that directly relates to the country of the day. The presentation could be on a current event, a historical event, an important person, or anything that the student finds interesting about the country's history and politics.
  - Sign up for a slot by August 20, 2024.
  - Email me the topic of your presentation by the class prior to the presentation day.
  - Submit your presentation slides by 10 pm ET the day before class meeting you signed up for.
  - If you need to change your slot, notify me 3 days prior to the slot you initially signed up for and select another slot.
3. Reading questions – 5%  
To facilitate active reading, students are expected to submit three questions based on the reading before each class. These questions can be about the reading itself (e.g., a confusing concept) or inspired by the reading (e.g., a tension between two class readings). Be sure to provide a brief context for each question. I will select some of the submitted questions for class discussion. This assignment cannot be made up, but you will have three passes. Use them wisely.

- Submit your questions on eLC by 10 pm ET the day before class meeting. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Your submission points will be earned on the following scale:

No submission = 0 points

Fewer than questions submitted, and none are well-informed/contextualized = 1/5

Three questions submitted but none are well-informed/contextualized = 2/5

Three questions submitted but only one well-informed/contextualized = 3/5

Three questions submitted but only two are well-informed/contextualized = 4/5

Three well-informed/contextualized questions = 5/5

#### 4. Participation – 20%

There is no grade for attendance. However, it is impossible to participate in class discussion unless you are present. That said, simply showing up does not count as participation. Students should come prepared with comments on the readings and actively contribute to the discussion. Participation grade cannot be made up, but you will have three passes.

Participation points will be earned on the following scale:

Unexcused absence = 0 points

In class, but asleep or obsessed w/ laptop = 2/5

Engaged but no contribution = 3/5

Make an okay contribution = 4/5

Make quality contributions = 5/5

#### 5. Exam – 25% [M]

This is an open-book in-class exam on November 7, 2024. It will consist of identifications and short response questions. See make-up procedures below.

#### 6. Final paper – 45%

Students are expected to write a research paper that is 13 to 15 pages in length (excluding bibliography). The paper should include literature review, theoretical argument, and evidence (one or two case studies or preliminary results based on existing data) or detailed description of research plan. We will read several research articles throughout the semester; students are highly encouraged to emulate their structure and/or style

- 9/24 – Topic Proposal & Annotated Bibliography (5%)

*Topic proposal:* Describe your research question, what motivates this research question, your primary hypothesis or argument, and how you will evaluate/support your hypothesis or argument. This should be 200 to 300 words in length.

*Annotated bibliography:* This must include at least 5 academic sources with 2-3 sentences below each bibliographic citation explaining how/why it is relevant to your paper. Upload to eLC.

- 10/17 – Revised Proposal and Outline (3%)

Paper abstract (150 to 200 words), followed by a detailed outline of final paper, minimum 4 pages. Upload to eLC.

- 11/12 – First Draft of Paper (5%)  
Draft of approximately 2/3 of paper (8-10 pages) with outline of remaining parts.  
Uploaded to eLC.
- 11/14 – 2 Peer responses (2%) [M]  
One page response to each of the two drafts that you are responsible for reading.  
Uploaded to ELC.
- 11/19-26 – Presentations (5%) [M]  
Ten-minute presentation of your research paper.
- 12/10 – Final Paper (25%): due by noon

The following scale will be used to determine your overall grade in the course: A: >94%, A-: 90-93.9%, B+: 87-89.9%, B: 84-86.9%, B-: 80-83.9%, C+: 77-79.9%, C: 74-76.9%; C-: 70-73.9%; D+: 67-69.9%; D: 64-66.9%; D-: 60-63.9%; F: <60%.

## Course Policies & Statements

### Attendance

Attendance is not taken, but students are highly encouraged to attend class. It should be clear from course requirements specified above that class attendance is necessary to do well in this course.

### Emails and office hours

For administrative questions and clarifications, the best way to contact me is via email. I aim to answer emails within 24 hours during the week. If you have not received a response in 24 hours, email me again. For substantive issues related to course materials, stop by during my office (drop-in) hours. If you are unable to stop by at the regular time, email me so that we can find a time that works for you.

### Make-up procedures

Students may make up the course requirements indicated by [M] in the cases of sickness (requiring a doctor's note) or family emergency (requiring a Dean's note). If you cannot be in attendance for the map quiz or exam due to religious observance, notify the instructor at least one week in advance to arrange an alternative. There are no exceptions.

### Appeals

If you believe a grade you are given does not reflect your performance, you may dispute the grade in writing, explaining why you should receive a higher grade. This should be done within a week after the grade is announced and submitted after class or in office hours. I reserve the right to raise or lower your grade.

### UGA Honor Code

You have agreed to UGA Student Honor Code: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at [www.uga.edu/ovpi](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi).

Cheating, plagiarism, and all forms of academic dishonesty are expressly forbidden in this class, and by the university's Academic Honesty Policy. Plagiarism includes reprinting the words of others without both the use of quotation marks and citation.

### **Generative AI Tools**

To ensure you develop and master the foundational knowledge and skills in this course, the use of generative AI (GAI) tools is prohibited when completing written assignments for this course. This includes all stages of your work process, even the preliminary ones. This prohibition extends to AI writing tools like Grammarly and Wordtune, as well as GAI tools like ChatGPT. If you are uncertain about using a particular tool to support your work, please consult with me before using it.

### **Accommodation for disabilities**

If you plan to request accommodations for a disability, please register with the Disability Resource Center. They can be reached by visiting Clark Howell Hall, calling 706-542-8719 (voice) or 706-542-8778 (TTY), or by visiting <http://drc.uga.edu>.

### **UGA Well-being Resources**

UGA Well-being Resources promote student success by cultivating a culture that supports a more active, healthy, and engaged student community.

Anyone needing assistance is encouraged to contact Student Care & Outreach (SCO) in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-8479 or visit [sco.uga.edu](http://sco.uga.edu). Student Care & Outreach helps students navigate difficult circumstances by connecting them with the most appropriate resources or services. They also administer the Embark@UGA program which supports students experiencing, or who have experienced, homelessness, foster care, or housing insecurity.

UGA provides both clinical and non-clinical options to support student well-being and mental health, any time, any place. Whether on campus, or studying from home or abroad, UGA Well-being Resources are here to help.

- Well-being Resources: [well-being.uga.edu](http://well-being.uga.edu)
- Student Care and Outreach: [sco.uga.edu](http://sco.uga.edu)
- University Health Center: [healthcenter.uga.edu](http://healthcenter.uga.edu)
- Counseling and Psychiatric Services: [caps.uga.edu](http://caps.uga.edu) or CAPS 24/7 crisis support at 706-542-2273
- Health Promotion/ Fontaine Center: [healthpromotion.uga.edu](http://healthpromotion.uga.edu)
- Disability Resource Center and Testing Services: [drc.uga.edu](http://drc.uga.edu)

Additional information, including free digital well-being resources, can be accessed through the UGA app or by visiting <https://well-being.uga.edu>.

### **Disclaimer**

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

## Class Schedule

Week 1	August 15	<p><b>Welcome!</b></p> <p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read a short article on <a href="#">New Mandala</a>. Students will be asked to share in class what they read.</li> </ul>
Week 2	August 20	<p><b>What is Southeast Asia?</b></p> <p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scott, James C. <i>The art of not being governed: An anarchist history of upland Southeast Asia</i>. Yale University Press, 2009. <a href="#">Chapter 1: 1-26</a>. [26 pages]</li> </ul>
	August 22	<p><b>Cultural Heritage</b></p> <p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Osborne. <a href="#">Chapters 2 – 3: 20 – 55</a> [36 pages]</li> </ul> <p>Optional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[podcast] Cooper, Paul. “Bagan – City of Temples” <i>Fall of Civilizations</i></li> <li>[podcast] Cooper, Paul. “The Khmer Empire – Fall of the God Kings” <i>Fall of Civilizations</i></li> </ul>
Week 3	August 27	<p><b>Colonial Interlude</b></p> <p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Osborne. <a href="#">Chapter 5</a> [23 pages]</li> </ul> <p>* Map quiz</p>
	August 29	<p><b>Thailand 1</b></p> <p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hewison, Kevin and Kengkij Kitirianglarp. “‘Thai-Style Democracy’: The Royalist Struggle for Thailand’s Politics.” In <a href="#">Saying the Unsayable: Monarchy and Democracy in Thailand</a>, ed. Søren Ivarsson and Lotte Isager. Copenhagen: NIAS Press: 179 – 196. [18 pages]</li> <li>Sirivunnabood, Punchada, and Jacob Isaac Ricks. “Professionals and soldiers: Measuring professionalism in the Thai military.” <i>Pacific Affairs</i> 89, no. 1 (2016): 7-30. [23 pages]</li> </ul>

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Week 4	September 3	<b>Thailand 2</b>
		<p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fox, Colm A. "<a href="#">Is all politics local? Determinants of local and national election campaigns.</a>" <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 51, no. 14 (2018) [35 pages]</li> </ul> <p>Optional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toyota, Mika. "Subjects of the Nation without Citizenship: The Case of 'Hill Tribes' in Thailand" In <i>Multiculturalism in Asia</i></li> </ul>
	September 5	No class meeting – APSA
Week 5	September 10	<b>Myanmar 1</b>
		<p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bertrand, Jacques, Alexandre Pelletier, and Ardeth Maung Thawngmung. <a href="#">Winning by process: The state and neutralization of ethnic minorities in Myanmar.</a> Cornell University Press, 2022. <b>Chapter 2</b> [22 pages]</li> <li>• Rhoads, Elizabeth L. "Citizenship denied, deferred and assumed: a legal history of racialized citizenship in Myanmar." <i>Citizenship Studies</i> 27, no. 1 (2023). [16 pages]</li> </ul>
	September 12	<b>Myanmar 2</b> – No class meeting.
		<p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch <a href="#">Inside a Military Dictatorship.</a></li> </ul> <p>Optional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hlaing, Kyaw Yin. 2009. "<a href="#">Setting the Rules for Survival: Why the Burmese Military Regime Survives in an Age of Democratization.</a>" <i>The Pacific Review</i> 22 (3): 271–91.</li> </ul>
Week 6	September 17	<b>Myanmar 3</b>
		<p>* Guest lecture: Dr. Htet Thiha Zaw, University of British Columbia</p> <p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zaw, Htet Thiha. "<a href="#">The Pre-Colonial Roots of Colonial Coercion: Evidence from British Burma.</a>" <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> (2023): 1- 15, skim the rest. [15 pages]</li> </ul>

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September 19 **Vietnam 1**

Required

- Vu, Tuong and Thuy Nguyen. “Doi Moi” but Not “Doi Mau”: Vietnam’s Red Crony Capitalism in Historical Perspective. In Nhu Troung and Tuong Vu (Eds.), *The Dragon’s Underbelly: Dynamics and Dilemmas in Vietnam’s Economy and Politics*. ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, 2023. [28 pages]
- Abuza, Zachary, and Nguyen Phuong Linh. “Fear Not? The Economic Impact of Vietnam’s Political Churn.” *The Diplomat* (2024) [13 pages]

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Week 7 September 24 **Vietnam 2**

Required

- Truong, Mai. "[Declining opportunities for speaking out: The impact of Vietnam's new leadership on grassroots collective action.](#)" *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics* 9, no. 1 (2024). [15 pages]

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September 26 **Cambodia 1**

Required

- Morgenbesser, Lee. "[Cambodia’s Transition to Hegemonic Authoritarianism.](#)" *Journal of Democracy* 30, no. 1 (2019). [13 pages]

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Week 8 October 1 **Cambodia 2**

\* Guest lecture: Oren Samet, University of California, Berkeley

Required

- Samet, Oren. “When You Come at the King: Opposition Coalitions and Nearly Stunning Elections.” *American Journal of Political Science*, forthcoming.

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October 3 **Laos**

Required

- Pholsena, Vatthana. “A Liberal Model of Minority Rights for an Illiberal Multiethnic State? The Case of Lao PDR” In *Multiculturalism in Asia* [30 pages]
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Week 9	October 8	<b>Philippines 1</b>
		<p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dulay, Dean, Allen Hicken, and Ronald Holmes. "<a href="#">The Persistence of Ethnopolit Support: The Case of Rodrigo Duterte's Philippines.</a>" <i>Journal of East Asian Studies</i> 22, no. 3 (2022): 525-538, skim the rest. [14 pages]</li> </ul>
	October 10	<b>Philippines 2</b>
		<p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dulay, Dean, and Laurence Go. "<a href="#">When running for office runs in the family: Horizontal dynasties, policy, and development in the Philippines.</a>" <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 55, no. 4 (2022): 588-627. [39 pages]</li> </ul>
Week 10	October 15	<b>Indonesia 1</b>
		<p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Edward Aspinall, 2015. "<a href="#">The Surprising Democratic Behemoth: Indonesia in Comparative Asian Perspective.</a>" <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> 74;4. 889-902. [14 pages]</li> </ul> <p>Optional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bowen, John. "Normative Pluralism in Indonesia: Regions, Religions and Ethnicities" In <a href="#">Multiculturalism in Asia</a></li> </ul>
	October 17	<b>Indonesia 2</b>
		<p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toha, Risa J. "<a href="#">Political competition and ethnic riots in democratic transition: A lesson from Indonesia.</a>" <i>British Journal of Political Science</i> 47, no. 3 (2017): 631-651. [20 pages]</li> </ul>
Week 11	October 22	<b>Malaysia 1</b>
		<p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Osborne. Chapter 7; p. 112 – 122. [10 pages]</li> <li>Weiss, Meredith L. 2020. "<a href="#">Legacies of the Cold War in Malaysia: Anything but Communism.</a>" <i>Journal of Contemporary Asia</i> 50 (4): 511–29. [19 pages]</li> </ul>

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		Optional
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ganesan, N. "Liberal and Structural Ethnic Political Accommodation in Malaysia" In <a href="#"><i>Multiculturalism in Asia</i></a></li> </ul>
October 24		<b>Malaysia 2</b>
		* Guest lecture: TBD
		Required
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Siow, Jeremy. "Bilingual Education Reduces Ethnic Outgroup Discrimination." <i>Working paper</i> [27 pages]</li> </ul>
Week 12	October 29	<b>Singapore 1</b>
		Required
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Verweij, Marco, and Riccardo Pelizzo. "<a href="#">Singapore: Does authoritarianism pay?</a>" <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 20 (2009). [16 pages]</li> <li>Slater, Dan. 2012. "<a href="#">Strong-State Democratization in Malaysia and Singapore.</a>" <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 23(2). [15 pages]</li> </ul>
	October 31	<b>Singapore 2</b>
		Required
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ong, Elvin. "<a href="#">Electoral manipulation, opposition power, and institutional change: Contesting for electoral reform in Singapore, Malaysia, and Cambodia.</a>" <i>Electoral Studies</i> 54 (2018). 12 pages]</li> </ul>
Week 13	November 5	<b>Brunei/Timor Leste</b>
		Required
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aspinall, Edward, Allen Hicken, James Scambary, and Meredith Weiss. "<a href="#">Timor-Leste votes: parties and patronage.</a>" <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 29, no. 1 (2018). [15 pages]</li> <li>Khan, Asif Ullah. 2020. "<a href="#">Sharia in Brunei: Much Ado About Nothing?</a>" <i>Diplomat</i>, no. 65 (April). [8 pages]</li> </ul>
	November 7	<b>In-class exam</b>

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Week 14	November 12	<b>Regional Relations in Southeast Asia</b>
		<p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arugay, Aries A. 2017. "<a href="#">The Next 50 Years of ASEAN. (Cover Story)</a>." <i>Diplomat</i>, no. 33 (August): 20–31. [12 pages]</li> <li>• Chalermphanupap, Termsak. 2017. "<a href="#">Five Decades of ASEAN: The History of a Political Miracle</a>." <i>Diplomat</i>, no. 26 (January): 43–55. [13 pages]</li> <li>• Choudhury, Angshuman, and Muhammad Waffaa Kharisma. 2023. "<a href="#">Regional Splits on Myanmar Are Becoming More Apparent</a>." <i>Diplomat</i>, no. 103 (June): 147–54. [7 pages]</li> </ul>
	November 14	In class peer-review
Week 15	November 19	Presentation/workshop
	November 21	Presentation/workshop
Week 16	November 26	Presentation/workshop – Last class meeting
	November 28	Thanksgiving Break – No class meeting

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**Final paper due by noon, Tuesday 12/10**