

# Syllabus

## **Southeast Asia in World Politics (IR 369)**

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Spring 2015: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30am – 11:00am in KCB 102

Office Hours: Tue/Wed 1pm– 2pm or by appointment, 156 Bay State Rd., #403

### **Objectives**

This course is an introduction to the politics of Southeast Asia. Our focus is analytical: we will use the history and trajectory of Southeast Asia to address some of the central questions of contemporary world politics.

- How do colonialism, economic development, ethnic identity, and religious belief shape contemporary world politics?
- Why do some states democratize while others are ruled by tyrants and autocrats?
- What is the legacy of political violence, including genocide, in newly democratic states?
- What does the rise of China mean for the states of Southeast Asia?
- How do global human rights and “Asian values” shape contemporary politics?
- What is anarchy? What does political order look like at the state periphery?

While our focus is on contemporary politics, we will devote considerable time to understanding how historical experiences shape the world that we see today. We will cover the entire region, but we will devote most of our attention to Indonesia, the Philippines, Burma, Malaysia, and Thailand. We begin with a short introduction to the region and its people. We will then survey the politics of individual countries, devoting two class sessions to each of the five countries. After the midterm, we will turn to a series of thematic discussions that span borders.

### **Course Requirements**

Students are expected to attend all classes and keep up with the reading assignments. Grades will be based on a presentation, participation, response papers, one midterm exam, and one final exam.

5%	Presentation
15%	Participation
15%	Response Papers
30%	Midterm Exam
35%	Final Exam

Presentation (1 x 5% = 5%): Each student will be assigned to a two-person group, which will be responsible for a 10-15 minute presentation on current events in Southeast Asia. A grade rubric is at the end of the syllabus. Students will choose presentation dates on the second day of class. Students using PowerPoint or other presentation software must email their presentation to the instructor at least 2 hours prior to class, or bring the file to class on a flash drive.

Participation (15%): The course will be run as a combination lecture and discussion. This format requires students to attend regularly, read diligently, and participate actively in class discussions including through the student response system.

Response Papers (3 x 5% = 15%): Student will write three short (1-2 pages, double-spaced, 1 inch margins) analytical response papers (RP) over the course of the semester. I will provide the paper prompts before the papers are due on **2/5, 3/24, and 4/4**. All papers are due in class except for the one **4/4**, which is due 48 hours after class via email. A grade rubric is at the end of the syllabus.

Exams (Midterm = 30%, Final = 35%): Exams will be based on a series of essays, held in class. There will be a review of material prior to both exams.

Student Response System: This class will be using a student response system to allow students to actively participate in classes through surveys and quizzes, followed by real time results. All students will need to purchase a handheld clicker device.

Late Work: Late submission of assignments will penalize your grade by incurring an automatic full-grade deduction per day beginning with the assignment deadline.

Explanation of Letter Grades: <http://www.bu.edu/reg/grades/explanation-of-grades/>

Special Needs: If you have any special needs or circumstances, such as a learning disability or health concern, please do not hesitate to speak with me and we can discuss suitable accommodations and assistance.

Academic Misconduct: Plagiarism and cheating are serious offences and will be punished in accordance with BU's Academic Conduct Code:

<http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>

Electronic Communications in Class: Please do not use laptop computers, cell phones, or any other electronic devices during the seminar. These are serious distractions to your learning.

## **Required Texts & Hardware**

D.R. SarDesai, 2012. *Southeast Asia: Past & Present*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Boulder: Westview Press.

Rachel Rinaldo, 2013. *Mobilizing Piety: Islam and Feminism in Indonesia*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

ResponseCard RF from Turning Technologies. Available at the BU [Barnes & Noble store](#) or the [Turning Technologies store](#) (code: wh4a)

## Date and Readings

### January 20 Introduction

### January 22 The Spectre of Comparisons

- SarDesai, ch. 1
- Benedict Anderson, 1998. "Introduction," in *The Spectre of Comparisons: Nationalism, Southeast Asia, and the World*, 1-20.

### January 27 Early State Formation in Southeast Asia

- SarDesai, ch. 2, 3, 4, 5.

### January 29 The Origins of Southeast Asian Studies

- John Bowen, 2004. "The Development of Southeast Asian Studies in the United States," in David Szanton, ed., *The Politics of Knowledge: Area Studies and the Disciplines*, 386-425.

### February 3 The East Indies

- SarDesai, ch. 7, 14, 22 (read until "The Suharto Era")
- Harry J. Benda, 1964. "Democracy in Indonesia: A Review of Herbert Feith's 'The Decline of Constitutional Democracy in Indonesia.'" *Journal of Asian Studies*, 449-56.
- Herbert Feith, 1965. "History, Theory, and Indonesian Politics: A Reply to Harry J. Benda," *The Journal of Asian Studies* 24:2, 305-312.

### February 5 Indonesia [RP1]

- SarDesai, ch. 22 (remainder)
- Edward Aspinall, 2010. "The Irony of Success." *Journal of Democracy* 21:2, 20-34.
- Daniel S. Lev, 2005. "Conceptual Filters and Obfuscation in the Study of Indonesian Politics." *Asian Studies Review* 29, 345-356.

### February 10 The American Philippines

- SarDesai, pp. ch. 13,
- Paul D. Hutchcroft, 2000. "Colonial Masters, National Politicos, and Provincial Lords: Central Authority and Local Autonomy in the American Philippines, 1900-1913." *Journal of Asian Studies* 59:2, 277-306.

### February 12 The Philippines

- SarDesai, ch. 19
- Paul D. Hutchcroft, 2008. "The Arroyo Imbroglia in the Philippines." *Journal of Democracy* 19:1, 141-155.

### Recommended:

- Benedict Anderson, 1998. "Cacique Democracy in the Philippines: Origins and Dreams." *New Left Review* 169, 3-31.

### February 17 No Class – BU Monday

**February 19            Siam**

- SarDesai, ch. 11, 16

**February 24            Thailand**

- SarDesai, ch. 21
- Thitinan Pongsudhirak, 2012. "Thailand's Uneasy Passage," *Journal of Democracy* 23:2, 47-61.

**February 26            British Malaya**

- SarDesai, ch. 8, 18
- Richard Stubbs, 1997. "The Malayan Emergency and the Development of the Malaysian State," in Paul B. Rich and Richard Stubbs, eds., *The Counter-Insurgent State: Guerrilla Warfare and State-Building in the Twentieth Century*, 50-71.

**March 3                Malaysia**

- SarDesai, ch. 24.
- Dan Slater, 2012. "Strong-State Democratization in Malaysia and Singapore." *Journal of Democracy* 23:2, 19-33.

**March 5                Midterm Exam**

\* \* \* **Spring Break!** \* \* \*

**March 17              Myanmar**

- SarDesai, ch. 9, 15.
- Mary P. Callahan, 2003. "Introduction," 1-20 "Conclusion," 204-228 in *Making Enemies: War and State Building in Burma*.

**March 19              Burma**

- SarDesai, ch. 20.

**March 24              Democratic Theory and Southeast Asia [RP2]**

- Philippe C Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, "What Democracy Is ... And Is Not." *Journal of Democracy* 2:3, 75-88.
- Dan Slater, 2008. "Democracies and Dictatorships Do Not Float Freely: Structural Sources of Political Regimes in Southeast Asia," in Erik Kuhonta, Dan Slater, and Tuong Vu, eds., *Southeast Asia in Political Science: Theory, Region, and Qualitative Analysis*, 55-79.
- Joan M. Nelson, 2014. "Will Malaysia Follow the Path of Taiwan and Mexico?." *Journal of Democracy* 25:3, 105-119.

**March 26              Burma in Transition**

- "The Opening in Burma." Special issue of the *Journal of Democracy* 23:4, 2012.
  - Min Zin and Brian Joseph, "The Democrats' Opening," 104-119.
  - Mary Callahan, "The Generals Loosen Their Grip," 120-131.
  - Hkun Htun Oo, "A Union for All of Us," 132-134.

- Min Ko Naing, “Strengthening Civil Society,” 135-137.
- BBC News, “Burma in Transition,” <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-11669604>
- BBC profile of Aung San Suu Kyi, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-11685977>

### **March 31 Political Order and Political Violence**

- Robert Cribb, 2004. “The Indonesia Massacres,” in Samuel Totten, William Parsons (ed.), *Century of Genocide*, 2nd Edition, 232-260.
- Robert Cribb, 2002. “Unresolved Problems in the Indonesian Killings of 1965–1966,” *Asian Survey*, 42:4, 550-563.
- John Roosa, “Dictionary of a Disaster,” <http://www.insideindonesia.org/feature-editions/dictionary-of-a-disaster>

### **April 2 Film: *The Act of Killing* [RP3 due by 4/4 at 11am]**

- Larry Rohter, July 12, 2012. “A Movie’s Killers are All Too Real: ‘The Act of Killing’ and Indonesian Death Squads.” *The New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/14/movies/the-act-of-killing-and-indonesian-death-squads.html>
- “The Killings of 1965-66.” Special edition of *Inside Indonesia* 99, 2010.
  - Robert Cribb and Michele Ford, “The Killings of 1965-66,” <http://www.insideindonesia.org/feature-editions/the-killings-of-1965-66>
  - Brad Simpson, “Accomplices in Atrocity,” <http://www.insideindonesia.org/feature-editions/accomplices-in-atrocity>
  - Dahlia Gratia Setiyawan, “Terror in Tandes,” <http://www.insideindonesia.org/feature-editions/terror-in-tandes>
  - Annie Pohlman, “I’m Still Here,” <http://www.insideindonesia.org/feature-editions/im-still-here>
  - Katherine McGregor, “Sensitive Truths,” <http://www.insideindonesia.org/feature-editions/sensitive-truths>

### **April 7 Islam and Feminism**

- Rinaldo, ch. 1, 2, 3

### **April 9 Islam and Feminism**

- Rinaldo, ch. 4, 5, 6

### **April 14 Politics at the Periphery**

- James C Scott, 2009. “Hills, Valleys, and States: An Introduction to Zomia,” and “State Space: Zones of Governance and Appropriation,” 1-63, and “Conclusion,” 324-337, in *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*.

### **April 16 ASEAN**

- SarDesai, Part Four Review.
- David Jones and Michael Smith, 2007. “Making Process, Not Progress: ASEAN and the Evolving East Asian Regional Order,” *International Security* 32:1, 148-184.

### **April 21 China and the Disputed South China Sea**

- Jeff Himmelman, October 27, 2013. “A Game of Shark and Minnow,” *The New York Times Magazine*, <http://www.nytimes.com/newsgraphics/2013/10/27/south-china-sea/>
- “Staking Claims and Making Waves in the South China Sea.” Special issue of *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 33:3, 2011.
  - Alice Ba, “How Troubled Are the Waters?” 269-291.
  - M Taylor Fravel, “China’s Strategy in the South China Sea,” 292-319.
  - Brantly Womack, “The Spratlys: From Dangerous Ground to Apple of Discord,” 370-387.

**April 23                      Debating Oligarchy**

- Vedi R. Hadiz and Richard Robison, 2013. “The Political Economy of Oligarchy and the Reorganization of Power in Indonesia.” *Indonesia* No. 96, October, 35-57.
- R. William Liddle, 2013. “Improving the Quality of Democracy in Indonesia: Toward a Theory of Action.” *Indonesia* No. 96, October, 59-80.
- Edward Aspinall, 2013. “Popular Agency and Interests in Indonesia's Democratic Transition and Consolidation.” *Indonesia* No. 96, October, 101-121.

**April 28                      Asian Values [RPX]**

- Fareed Zakaria and Lee Kuan Yew, 1994. “Culture Is Destiny: A Conversation with Lee Kuan Yew.” *Foreign Affairs* 73:2, 109-126.
- Kishore Mahbubani, Dec 28, 2012. “The East Will Rise Above The West.” *Financial Times*.
- Donald K. Emmerson, 2013. “Review Essay: Kishore’s World.” *Journal of Democracy* 24:3, 166-174.
- Leigh Jenco, 2013. “Revisiting Asian Values.” *Journal of the History of Ideas*, 74:2, 237-258.

**April 30                      Final Exam Review**

**May 7                         Final Exam**

## Grading Rubric – Response Papers

**5** Answers the prompt in a coherent manner. Makes creative *links* between the reading, authors and concepts. Goes *beyond* the assigned content to draw fresh insights and analysis. Demonstrates *mastery* of the material and engages in independent thinking. Avoids making claims unsupported by evidence and/or reasonable judgment, or making fallacious claims including equivocation. Writing is exceptionally lucid.

**4.5** Answers the prompt in a coherent way. Makes *links* between the cases, concepts or authors. Demonstrates a *solid* understanding of the material and goes beyond simple regurgitation, even if all claims are not convincingly established. Avoids being vague, making claims unsupported by evidence and/or reasonable judgment. Writing is clear and concise.

**4** Answers the prompt in a coherent way although lacks creativity and depth. Demonstrates more than cursory understanding of the material. Tends toward vagueness but does not make claims unsupported by evidence and/or reasonable judgment. Writing is good.

**3.5** Answers the prompt. Provides examples of cases, concepts or authors but fails to effectively connect evidence to the prompt. Makes claims unsupported by evidence and/or reasonable judgment. Writing itself is acceptable but needs improvement.

**3** Unclear answer to the prompt. Fails to lay out the answer with evidence from the cases concepts, and/or fails effectively connect evidence to the argument. Tends toward vagueness, makes claims unsupported by evidence and/or reasonable judgment. Writing itself is poor.

**2.5 -** States an unclear claim. Fails to lay out the argument with evidence from the texts and fails to demonstrate knowledge of the material itself. Vague, makes claims unsupported by evidence and/or reasonable judgment. Writing itself is unacceptable or incoherent.

## Grading Rubric – Presentations

- 1 pt.** Clear and concise
- 1 pt.** Relevant to course material
- 1 pt.** Accurate
- 1 pt.** Uses scholarly sources
- 1 pt.** Engaging
- 5 pt.** Total