

Syllabus

Southeast Asia in World Politics (IR 369)

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Spring 2014: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 – 11:00am in KCB 102

Office Hours: Wed/Thur 2:00 – 4:00pm 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
25%	Response Papers
25%	Midterm Exam
30%	Final Exam

Presentation (1 x 5% = 5%): Each student will be assigned to a two-person group, which will be responsible for one 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 in the second week of class.

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 (5 x 5% = 25%): Student will write five 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 **1/28, 2/6, 3/20, 3/29, and 4/15**. All papers are due in class except for the one **3/29**, which is due 48 hours after class via email. A grade rubric is at the end of the syllabus.

Exams (Midterm = 25%, Final = 30%): Exams will be based on a combination of short answers and longer 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*, 7th 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 16 Opening Statement

January 21 The Spectre of Comparisons

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

January 23 Early State Formation in Southeast Asia

- SarDesai, ch. 2, 3, 4, 5.
- 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*, pp. 386-425.

January 28 The East Indies [RP1]

- SarDesai, ch. 7, 14, 22 (read until "The Suharto Era")
- Benedict Anderson, 1972. "The Idea of Power in Javanese Culture," in Claire Holt, ed., *Culture and Politics in Indonesia*, pp. 1-52.
- Harry J. Benda, 1964. "Democracy in Indonesia: A Review of Herbert Feith's 'The Decline of Constitutional Democracy in Indonesia.'" *Journal of Asian Studies*, pp. 449-56
- Herbert Feith, 1965. "History, Theory, and Indonesian Politics: A Reply to Harry J. Benda," *The Journal of Asian Studies* 24:2, pp. 305-312.

January 30 Indonesia

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

February 4 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, pp. 277-306.

February 6 The Philippines [RP2]

- SarDesai, ch. 19
- Benedict Anderson, 1998. "Cacique Democracy in the Philippines: Origins and Dreams." *New Left Review* 169, pp. 3-31.
- Paul D. Hutchcroft, 2008. "The Arroyo Imbroglia in the Philippines." *Journal of Democracy* 19:1, pp. 141-155.

February 11 Siam

- SarDesai, ch. 11, 16

- Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker, 2002. “The Absolutist State,” pp. 225-257, “Revolution and Dictatorship,” pp. 258-307 in *Thailand: Economy and Politics*.

February 13 Thailand

- SarDesai, ch. 21
- Benedict Anderson, 1990. “Murder and Progress in Modern Siam.” *New Left Review* 181, pp. 33-48.
- Thitinan Pongsudhirak, 2012. “Thailand's Uneasy Passage,” *Journal of Democracy* 23:2, pp. 47-61.

February 18 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*, pp. 50-71.

February 20 Malaysia

- SarDesai, ch. 24.
- Dan Slater, 2003. “Iron Cage in an Iron Fist: Authoritarian Institutions and the Personalization of Power in Malaysia,” *Comparative Politics* 36:1, pp. 81-101.
- Dan Slater, 2012. “Strong-State Democratization in Malaysia and Singapore.” *Journal of Democracy* 23:2, pp. 19-33.

February 25 Myanmar

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

February 27 Burma

- SarDesai, ch. 20.
- Ian Holliday, 2008. “Voting and Violence in Myanmar: Nation Building for a Transition to Democracy,” *Asian Survey* 48:6, pp. 1038-1058.

March 4 Midterm Review

March 6 Midterm Exam

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

March 18 Democratic Theory and Southeast Asia

- Philippe C Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, “What Democracy Is ...And Is Not.” *Journal of Democracy* 2:3, pp. 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*, pp. 55-79.

March 20 **Burma in Transition [RP3]**

- “The Opening in Burma.” Special issue of the *Journal of Democracy* 23:4, 2012.
 - Min Zin and Brian Joseph, “The Democrats’ Opening,” pp. 104-119.
 - Mary Callahan, “The Generals Loosen Their Grip,” pp. 120-131.
 - Hkun Htun Oo, “A Union for All of Us,” pp. 132-134.
 - Min Ko Naing, “Strengthening Civil Society,” pp. 135-137.
 - Larry Diamond, “The Need for a Political Past,” pp. 138-149.
- BBC News, “Burma in Transition,” <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-11669604>
- BBC News profile of Aung San Suu Kyi, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-11685977>

March 25 **Political Order and Political Violence**

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

March 27 **Film: *The Act of Killing* [RP4 due by 3/29 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 1 **Islam and Feminism**

- Rinaldo, ch. 1, 2, 3

April 3 **Islam and Feminism**

- Rinaldo, ch. 4, 5, 6

April 8 **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, pp. 148-184.

April 10 **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?” pp. 269-291
 - M Taylor Fravel, “China’s Strategy in the South China Sea,” pp. 292-319
 - Brantly Womack, “The Spratlys: From Dangerous Ground to Apple of Discord,” pp. 370-387.

April 15 **Politics at the Periphery [RP5]**

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

April 17 **Pirates at the Periphery**

- Carolin Liss, 2003. “Maritime Piracy In Southeast Asia,” *Southeast Asian Affairs* pp. 52-68
- Karsten von Hoesslin, 2012. “Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea in Southeast Asia: Organized and Fluid,” *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 35:7-8, p. 542-552.

April 22 **Economic Development**

- Richard F. Doner, 1991. “Approaches to the Politics of Economic Growth in Southeast Asia.” *Journal of Asian Studies* 50:4, pp. 818-849.

April 24 **No Class! Substitute Monday Schedule**

April 29 **Asian Values [RPX]**

- Fareed Zakaria and Lee Kuan Yew, 1994. “Culture Is Destiny: A Conversation with Lee Kuan Yew.” *Foreign Affairs* 73:2, pp. 109-126.
- Clark Neher, 1994. “Asian Style Democracy.” *Asian Survey* 34:11, pp. 949-961.
- 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, pp.166-174.
- Leigh Jenco, 2013. “Revisiting Asian Values.” *Journal of the History of Ideas*, 74:2, pp. 237-258.

May 1 **Final Exam Review**

*** * * 9:00 – 11:00am May 6 - 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

2 pts. Clear and concise
1 pt. Relevant to course material
1 pt. Accurate
1 pt. Engaging
5 pt. Total