
GOV 347N/ANS 361: POLITICS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

University of Texas at Austin
Class Meet Time: Tuesday and Thursday 8:00-9:30
Class Meet Location: Parlin Hall 105
Fall 2018

Unique #: 38475 (GOV); 32327 (ANS)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Office Location: Batts Hall 3.128
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Office Hours: Thursday 12:30-3:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to the politics of Southeast Asia. We will begin with a discussion of the ethnic landscape of the region, drawing attention to the difference between nationality and ethnicity. We will then talk about the political regimes. We will learn about the democracies – and how they compare to the United States. We will also examine the different institutions employed by dictators to stay in power – personal cult, the military, a party structure, or the royal family. We will conclude by circling back to ethnic politics, noting whether certain political regimes – e.g., democracies or dictatorships – are better at accommodating ethnic minorities. Note that this course is **not** about Southeast Asian foreign policy or US-Southeast Asia relations.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The class is a lecture meeting two times a week. Reading assignments are important and should be done before each class. **Attendance will not be taken in the course.** You are, however, strongly encouraged to attend each class for several reasons. First, readings and class lectures are not substitutes. In class, I will present additional materials that either challenge or build on the arguments made in the readings. Second, some of the readings are more difficult. When this is the case, I will devote significant class time going over the reading. And third, if you are absent on a quiz day (see below), you will receive a 0% on that specific quiz. I will not post lecture notes online. If you do miss class, I strongly encourage you to get notes from a classmate first before you come to my office hours.

Note that this course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

Prerequisites

Students wishing to enroll in this class must have taken a foundational course in government or Asian studies. The course also assumes basic knowledge of world history. If you find yourself lost during lectures or class discussions, come see me during office hours immediately.

Readings

The following book is required:

- D.R. SarDesai. 2012. *Southeast Asia: Past and Present*. 7th Edition. Boulder, CO: Westview Press (hereafter referred to as “SarDesai”).

You can purchase a hard copy through Amazon or another third party vendor. Alternatively, you can access a free electronic version of the book through the UT library (<http://catalog.lib.utexas.edu/>). I have placed all the other assigned readings on Canvas (<https://canvas.utexas.edu>).

Grading

Your final grade is composed of the following five parts:

1. **Quizzes:** 20%
2. **Midterm Examination:** 20%
3. **Final Examination:** 20%
4. **Coding Assignment:** 20%
5. **Coding-Based Paper Assignment:** 20%

The quizzes **can be cumulative** and cover both the lectures notes and assigned readings. Quiz dates will usually be announced in the previous class. I do, however, reserve the right to administer pop quizzes. These quizzes will test key information. On average, there will be one quiz per week, for an approximate total of eleven to thirteen quizzes for the semester. On each announced quiz, there will be a bonus question (worth 3% of the quiz) about current affairs in Southeast Asia. I strongly encourage you to read the following news sources on a regular basis. Note that each new sources has an app that you can follow on your smart phone.

- **BBC:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/asia>
- **The Guardian:** <https://www.theguardian.com>
- **The Straits Times (Singapore):** <http://www.straitstimes.com>
- **Washington Post:** <http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia>

One objective of this course is to expose you to how political science is done **and** to train you with the necessary tools to understand – if not execute – it at a basic level. Political scientists are frequently “coding” – the act of taking a set of information (usually in words), turning it into numbers, and categorizing it into a dataset. The purpose of this database is to assist with some analysis. In this course, we will focus on government cabinets. Specifically, we will seek to understand how they were systematically different during communism, and how they accommodate minorities in the present day – if at all.

To this end, to help you gain familiarity with (and appreciation for) political science research, you will be asked to do some of your own coding. To make the practice more manageable, you will be assigned a five-year period for a pair of countries (from a list of three choices). For each year, you are to identify the cabinet ministries in the two assigned countries. You will be asked to note the cabinet ministry ranks as documented in the *Europa Yearbook* and the corresponding minister’s name in an Excel spreadsheet. You will also be asked to identify the ethnicity of each cabinet

minister – a task that will require more fact-checking. This coding assignment is due electronically by the start of class on the following dates:

- **Philippines/Indonesia:** 09/25;
- **Thailand/Myanmar:** 10/25; and
- **Malaysia/Cambodia:** 11/20.

After you have completed your Excel spreadsheet, there will be a corresponding paper. For this assignment, you are to prepare a 5-7 page, double-spaced, grammatically-sound paper comparing your pair of countries 1960-2015. Do certain political institutions accommodate more minorities in the government cabinet? You will be asked to hypothesize a reason for this difference. The paper is due in hard copy at the start of class on the following dates:

- **Philippines/Indonesia:** 10/11;
- **Thailand/Myanmar:** 11/06; and
- **Malaysia/Cambodia:** 12/04.

COURSE POLICIES

Grading Policies

Only the top ten quiz grades will be counted. If you are absent for whatever reason on a day a quiz is given, you will receive a 0% for that specific quiz. **There are no makeup quizzes.** If you miss between 40-50% of total quizzes given, your final quiz grade for the semester will be a 0%. If you miss 50% or more of the quizzes given, you will automatically fail the course.

Make-up exams will only be given in the case of sickness (requiring a doctor's note), family emergency (requiring a Dean's note), or religious observance (requiring prior approval from the instructor). There are no exceptions.

Appeals

If you believe a grade does not reflect your performance, you are welcomed to dispute the grade. I ask that all grade appeals be made in writing. In the memo, explain why you should receive a higher grade on that quiz, examination, assignment, or analysis. This should be done within a week after the grade is announced and submitted after class or in office hours. Note that the individual who did not grade the quiz, examination, or assignment will be the one tasked with the re-grading. You will get a response in writing addressing your concerns.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities: 512.471.6259 or <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

Religious Observances

By university policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss an examination or an assignment in

order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Academic Dishonesty

“Scholastic dishonesty... includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act” (Section 11-802 (b), *Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities*).

If you have any questions about what constitutes scholastic dishonesty, you should consult with me and <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/academicintegrity.html>. Any student that violates this policy will fail this course and have the details of the violation reported to Student Judicial Services.

Emergency Evacuation Policy

In the event of a fire or other emergency, it may be necessary to evacuate a building rapidly. Upon the activation of a fire alarm or the announcement of an emergency in a university building, all occupants of the building are required to evacuate and assemble outside. Once evacuated, no one may re-enter the building without instruction to do so from the Austin Fire Department, University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Students should familiarize themselves with all the exit doors of each room and building they occupy at the university, and should remember that the nearest exit routes may not be the same as the way they typically enter buildings.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructors in writing during the first week of class. Faculty members must then provide this information to the Fire Prevention Services office by fax (512.232.2759), with “Attn. Mr. Roosevelt Easley” written in the subject line.

Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>.

Additional Policies

Since studies have shown people are more likely to multi-task (i.e., be distracted *and* be distracting) when they are sitting behind a computer,¹ I do not allow laptop computers or tablets in the classroom. In the same spirit, please do not check your email, browse the internet, or send texts on your phone in the middle of class. I reserve the right to confiscate your phone for the class period and/or penalize the entire class for violations of this policy.

Also, when emailing me, address me with either “Prof” or “Dr”. Do not use messaging or Twitter language. I reserve the right to not respond to emails in the twelve hours before an examination date or an assignment due date.

¹ Fried, Carrie B. 2006. “In-class laptop use and its effects on student learning.” *Computers and Education* 50: 906-914.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1	08/30 (Thursday) — Introduction
Week 2	<p>09/04 (Tuesday) — Overview of Southeast Asia</p> <p><u><i>Ethnicity: Concepts and Measurements</i></u></p> <p>09/06 (Thursday) — Political Ethnicity in Southeast Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [Canvas] Davidson, Jamie. “The Study of Political Ethnicity in Southeast Asia.”
Week 3	<p>09/11 (Tuesday) — Coding Assignment</p> <p><u><i>The Philippines</i></u></p> <p>09/13 (Thursday) — Democracy: The Early Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SarDesai: 186-189.
Week 4	<p>09/18 (Tuesday) — Personalist Dictatorship: Marcos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SarDesai: 189-196. <p>09/20 (Thursday) — Democracy: Post-Marcos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SarDesai: 196-207.
Week 5	<p>09/25 (Tuesday) — Democratic Backsliding: Duterte</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [Canvas] Coronel, Sheila. “I Will Kill All the Drug Lords.” <p>Due: Coding Assignment for <u>Philippines/Indonesia</u> [email]</p> <p><u><i>Indonesia</i></u></p> <p>09/27 (Thursday) — Personalist Dictatorship: Sukarno</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SarDesai: 256-260.
Week 6	<p>10/02 (Tuesday) — Military Dictatorship: Suharto</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SarDesai: 260-265 (stop at “The Downfall of Suharto”). <p>10/04 (Thursday) — Midterm Examination</p>
Week 7	<p>10/09 (Tuesday) — Democratization: Downfall of Suharto</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SarDesai: 265-266 (stop at “Indonesia after Suharto”). <p>10/11 (Thursday) — Democracy: Post-Suharto</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SarDesai: 266-270, 273-277. <p>Due: Coding-Based Paper Assignment for <u>Philippines/Indonesia</u> [hard copy]</p>

Week 8	<p><u>Thailand</u></p> <p>10/16 (Tuesday) — Monarchical Dictatorship: Rama Dynasty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SarDesai: 118-123. <p>10/18 (Thursday) — Military Dictatorship: From Phibun to Prem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SarDesai: 161-164, 237-248.
Week 9	<p>10/23 (Tuesday) — Democracy: Thaksin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SarDesai: 248-251. <p>10/25 (Thursday) — Democratic Backsliding: Red Shirts, Yellow Shirts, and the Military</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Canvas] Hewison, Kevin and Kengkij Kitirianglarp. “Thai-Style Democracy.” <p>Due: Coding Assignment for <u>Thailand/Myanmar</u> [email]</p>
Week 10	<p><u>Myanmar</u></p> <p>10/30 (Tuesday) — Personalist Dictatorship: U Nu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SarDesai: 214-217. <p>11/01 (Thursday) — Military Dictatorship: Tatmadaw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SarDesai: 217-227.
Week 11	<p>11/06 (Tuesday) — Democratization: Aung San Suu Kyi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Canvas] Barany, Zoltan. 2018. “Burma: Suu Kyi’s Missteps.” <p>Due: Coding-Based Paper Assignment for <u>Thailand/Myanmar</u> [hard copy]</p> <p>11/08 (Thursday) — Democracy: Alliance Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SarDesai: 285-288.
Week 12	<p><u>Malaysia</u></p> <p>11/13 (Tuesday) — Party Dictatorship: National Front and Mahathir</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SarDesai: 291-300. <p>11/15 (Thursday) — Party Dictatorship: Post-Mahathir Politics...and the Return of Mahathir</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SarDesai: 300-301.
Week 13	<p>11/20 (Tuesday) — Democracy: Post-National Front</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Canvas] Weiss, Meredith. TBA. <p>Due: Coding Assignment for <u>Malaysia/Cambodia</u> [email]</p> <p>11/22 (Thursday) —No Class (Thanksgiving)</p>

Cambodia

11/27 (Tuesday) —Personalist Dictatorship: Sihanouk

- SarDesai: 325-327.

11/29 (Thursday) — Party Dictatorship: Khmer Rouge

- SarDesai: 340-342.

12/04 (Tuesday) — Party Dictatorship: Hun Sen

- [Canvas] TBA

Due: Coding-Based Paper Assignment for Malaysia/Cambodia [hard copy]

Minority Recognition in Southeast Asia

12/06 (Thursday) — Minority Recognition in Southeast Asia

- [Canvas] Liu, Amy H., Jennifer Gandhi, and Curtis Bell. "Democracy and Minority Language Recognition."

12/14 (Friday) — **Final Examination** [2:00-5:00]