Southeast Asian Politics (PS 345) – Spring 2016

January 5 – March 10, 2016

Instructor: Derek King (dking3@uoregon.edu)

I. Course Description
This course will introduce important issues, institutions, and domestic political players in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, East Timor, Myanmar and Cambodia. Students will also learn about some important theories to explain democracy and dictatorship in Comparative Politics with applications to these countries. We will specifically discuss why some of them have achieved democracy while others have not, as well as problems of democratic consolidation in the new democracies of Southeast Asia.

II. Course Learning Goals
By the end of this semester, students should be able to:
1. identify, describe, and define basic factual information and analytical concepts concerning political systems of Southeast Asia
2. analyze political issues and phenomena using political science concepts, theories, and methods.
3. use argument and evidence effectively to communicate original analysis of phenomena related to Southeast Asian domestic and foreign relations through persuasive writing.
4. develop a deeper understanding of the prospects for stable democracy in Southeast Asian countries.

III. Meeting and Class Time
12:00 to 1:20 Tuesdays and Thursdays.

IV. Assignments and Due Dates
This is a reading-intensive, discussion-based seminar course, so everyone needs to come to class prepared to contribute. Plan ahead and read ahead especially, for Thursday class meetings. Preparation consists of doing the readings before the date for which they are assigned, and taking notes.

V. Attendance and Participation
Students are expected to attend every class and actively participate in discussions, debates, and other activities. Students who miss class are expected to contact the instructor with written answers to any discussion questions the instructor has sent out, and additional comments or opinions about the readings. If you miss a quiz, you are expected to make it up as soon as possible.

VI. Grading and Evaluation

Students' grades will be based on participation (20%), 5 in-class quizzes that will NOT be announced in advance (20% total, 4 % each) a midterm exam (15%) a final exam (25%), and a short (2-4 page) paper (20 %) due on March 7.

For the paper, you may pick whatever topic you want, as long as it is related to politics in one or more Southeast Asian countries and your research goes beyond the information covered in the assigned readings. (The news sources listed at the bottom of the syllabus might be great sources of information on topics not covered in the class). The paper will be graded for writing style as well as content, and I will be willing to read partial drafts during office hours, so getting started early will be strongly to your advantage. To ensure that you have a relevant topic and a sufficient number of sources to start writing, submit a proposal with a topic and at least 5 sources by February 11.

Participation will be based on attendance, engagement during group activities, and responses to questions. Failure to answer questions, contribute to group activities, or even speak in class will be noted and penalized. However, your participation grade will not be penalized for incorrect answers.

VII. Contacting the Instructor

Students who have questions about assignments, course material, or their grades should contact the instructor at dking3@uoregon.edu, come to office hours, or schedule an appointment outside office hours.

VIII. Office Hours

Mondays 1:00-2:00 and Wednesdays 3:00-5:00 and by appointment. PLC 923. If you want to talk to me, I am often there outside office hours with the door open, so feel free to stop by!

IX. Emergencies

While students are expected to plan ahead to make sure that they complete assignments on time, unforeseen personal and family emergencies do occur. It is imperative that you keep the instructor informed if you cannot complete an assignment on time due to a health, family, or personal crisis. Extensions also require notification in advance, unless some completely unforeseen emergency occurs.

College is a stressful time and many students with work and family commitments, family crises, emotional/psychological health problems, or physical illness may need additional support. Students having difficulty dealing with these problems should contact the Counseling Center at 541-346-3227.

Students dealing with unusual stress and in need of academic support should also contact the instructor at dking3@uoregon.edu, come to office hours, or schedule an appointment outside office hours. I cannot guarantee confidentiality in all circumstances and do not need to know any private details of your life that you feel uncomfortable
sharing. However, I cannot help students with extensions, paper topics, difficulty keeping up with the reading, or other problem unless I am aware of it.

Outside the classroom, if you or someone you know faces any sort of harassment or violence, contact university police at 541-346-3216.

As your professor and as a person, know that I care about you and your well-being and stand ready to provide support and resources as I can. However, I am not a trained counselor, and as a faculty member, I am a responsible employee, which means that I am required by University policy and federal law to report sexual assault to the University's Title IX Coordinator.

X. Textbooks and Readings


***This book will be referred to as "Neher" in the reading schedule

Other assigned course materials with an asterisk * after them will be available on Duckweb.

XI. Schedule of Weekly Readings and Exams

Week 1: Introduction to the Course, Democratization, and SE Asia (Theory and Overview of the Region)

Tuesday, January 5
-Robert Dahl, *Polyarchy,* 1-15*

Thursday, Jan. 7
-Barbara Geddes, "What do We Know about Democratization After Twenty Years?" *Annual review of Political Science,* 3 (1999)*

Week 2: Party-based Authoritarianism in SE Asia (Malaysia, Cambodia, and Vietnam)

Tuesday, Jan 12
-Competitive Authoritarianism and its application to SE Asia

Thurs. Jan. 14:
-Neher, Ch. 4 (Vietnam)

Week 3: Military Rule in Southeast Asia (Thailand periodically, Myanmar 1953-present, & Indonesia 1965-1998)

Tuesday, Jan. 19
-Neher, 27-48, 53-59, 73-90

Thursday, Jan. 21
- Neher, 223-244 (Indonesia)


**Week 4: Midterm and Religion in Politics**

Tuesday, Jan. 26
- MIDTERM EXAM

Thursday, Jan. 28

**Week 5- Repression, Mass Killing, and Genocide (Indonesia, Timor Leste, and Cambodia)**

Tuesday, February 2
- Varshney et al. *
- Neher, 259-275

Thursday, Feb. 4
- Chandler, *The Tragedy of Cambodian Politics*, 1-14; 67-99*

**Week 6- Inter-Ethnic Relations and Ethnic Conflict**

Tuesday, February 9

Thursday, February 11

**Week 7 – Ethnic Separatism and Development in Southeast Asia**
Tues. Feb. 24
Edward Aspinall, “Aceh Peace Process”*

Thurs. Feb. 26:

**Week 8 Government Performance and Authoritarian Stability**
**Tuesday**
- Alex Chang et al., “Southeast Asia: Sources of Regime Support,” Journal of Democracy 24: 2 (2013), 150-164*

**Thursday**
- Neher, Chapter 11 (Singapore)

**Week 9 - Poor Quality Democracy in Southeast Asia**
**Tuesday, Feb.**
Neher, Ch. 7 (Philippines)

**Thursday, Feb.**
- Neher, 31-61 (Thailand) Note: 31-48 is review from Week 3 but 49-60 is new material. You may skip/skim 31-48, BUT YOU ARE STILL RESPONSIBLE for that information.
- Neher, 227-251 (Indonesia)

**Week 10- Environmental Problems in Southeast Asia & Recap**
**Tuesday, Feb.**
- Lucca Tacconi, "Fires in Indonesia: Causes, Costs, and Policy Implications", 1-8*

**Thursday, Feb.**
- Review for Final exam, Term papers due

**XII. English-language News Sources (optional reading)**

**Indonesia**
XIII. Opportunities to Study Abroad in Southeast Asia or Learn a Southeast Asian Language

**Southeast Asian Summer Studies Institute (SEASSI)**
http://seassi.wisc.edu/
This is a program held every year in Madison, WI at the University of Wisconsin. They offer intensive, two-month courses in Burmese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Khmer, Lao, Thai, and Vietnamese. Some scholarships are also available to students who qualify (you must usually apply for these in February). By the end of a summer, you will complete an entire academic year's worth of coursework in the language of your choosing. They also have lots of fun cultural and social activities. Great people, great times, I highly recommend it!

**Critical Language Scholarship Program (CLS)**
http://www.clscholarship.org/
This is an all-expenses paid summer trip to a foreign country to study the language while living with a host family. CLS is sponsored by the US Department of State and is highly prestigious. Indonesian is the only Southeast Asian language currently offered, but Bangla (the language of Bangladesh, just outside SE Asia) is also available along with Russian, Turkish, Arabic, Azerbaijani, Chinese, Hindi, Punjabi, and a few others. One drawback for some students is that you must be a US citizen to apply.

**Freeman Awards for Study in Asia**
http://www.iie.org/Programs/Freeman-ASIA/
This program provides scholarships to study almost any Asian country.

**USINDO Summer Language Program (Indonesian)**
http://www.usindo.org/grants-fellowships/summer-language-study/
This is a 10-week program to study Bahasa Indonesia in the city of Yogyakarta while living with a host family. Most students receive funding that pays for the entire cost of the trip.