



IDS 4930

Culture and Politics in Southeast Asia

Explore relationships between culture and politics in SE Asia, including post-colonial nation building, ethnic conflict, indigenous rights and how state visions of development impact local communities.

Fall '21 | Dr. Tim Karis | MWF Period 7 | 3 hrs

This course introduces the diverse nation states, people, and governments of contemporary Southeast Asia, with a particular emphasis of the intersections between culture and politics in the region. The countries of SE Asia (Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, Singapore, Myanmar, Laos, East Timor, and Brunei) emerged from the age of imperialism with newly minted borders, a variety of political systems, and tensions between different segments of the population over the definition and

future of the nation. Today, even as Southeast Asia has enjoyed unprecedented economic growth and development, tensions related to culture and politics remain, and we will explore this theme through the topics of postcolonial nation building, ethnic conflict, nationalism and cultural pluralism, indigenous rights, gender roles, religious practices, education and language, and how the forces of globalization and state visions of modernization impact local cultures and communities.