

Culture and Politics in Southeast Asia

IDS 4930

Fall Semester 2022

University of Florida

International Studies Program

Course Information:

Instructor: Timothy Karis, PhD
Course location: ARCH 0213
Course time: Tuesdays 3:00-4:55 PM, Thursdays 4:05-4:55 PM
Office location: Pugh Hall 232
Office hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:30, Thursday 2:00-3:30 PM in Pugh 232
Wednesday: 1:00-2:30 PM - Virtual office hours using the following link:
<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/93906827427>
Please use Calendly to make appointments for office hours:
<https://calendly.com/dr-karis-office-hours/dr-karis-office-hours>

Course Description:

This course offers an introduction to 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 Southeast Asia (Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, Singapore, Myanmar, Laos, East Timor, and Brunei) emerged from the era 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.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the semester, students will achieve an understanding of:

- The close and often tense relationships between culture and politics in the region
- The cultural debates that accompany projects of post-colonial nation building
- The inequalities faced by minority cultural/ethnic groups in Asian states
- How the forces of globalization both undermine and serve to reinforce cultural identities
- How the cultures of immigrant and refugee groups interface with cultures in destinations

Course Texts:

1. Winichakul, Thongchai. (1997). *Siam Mapped: A History of the Geobody of a Nation*. University of Hawaii Press.
2. Elinoff, Eli. (2021). *Citizen Designs: City-Making and Democracy in Northeastern Thailand*. University of Hawaii Press.
3. Fadiman, Anne. (1997). *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. New York: Noonday Press.

Student Responsibilities:

Students are expected to complete all readings and assignments and to attend all class sessions, barring an emergency. Please arrive on time and well prepared. The class will include discussion, lectures, and film screenings. Your active participation figures in your final grade, so please put forth your best effort to contribute to class discussions. Please always maintain respect for your classmates even when discussing sometimes controversial subjects. Please refrain from using your phone for any activities unrelated to our class, including reading and sending text messages. This syllabus is a living document responsive to student interests, current events, and the pace of class, and therefore subject to change. You should regularly check the class Canvas site for readings, announcements, and information about assignments and class activities.

Pandemic Response

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.
- You are encouraged to wear approved face coverings during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.
 - Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
 - Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.
- If you sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for

no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website for more information.

- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
- If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

Academic Honesty:

Please do not engage in plagiarism or any other behaviors that would violate the University of Florida Academic Honesty Policy. It is the student’s responsibility to read, understand, and abide by the policy: <https://archive.catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617//advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>

Student Evaluation:

Your grade will be based on three essay assignments, a map quiz, a research paper of 7-8 pages, and your class participation and attendance. Individual assignment prompts will be distributed in class and posted to Canvas.

The course grading breakdown is as follows:

Essay 1 (3-4 pages)	15%
Essay 2 (3-4 pages)	15%
Essay 3 (3-4 pages)	15%
Essay 4 (3-4 pages)	15%
Research paper (7-8 pages)	25%
Map quiz	5%
Class participation	10%
Total	100%

Grading Scale:

A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	<60

Writing Requirements:

When composing your essays, you are free to cite your sources according to either the APA or MLA formatting requirements – just be sure to remain consistent. The best essays will reference key course readings and ideas while demonstrating original thinking in answering the question(s). Your essays will be evaluated using the following grading rubric:

1. (40 points) - The extent to which the response demonstrates an understanding of key concepts and thoughtfully and thoroughly answers the questions.
2. (40 points) - The depth of the analysis, including reference to specific citations and examples and attention to the connections between cases.
3. (20 points) - The overall quality of the work, including evidence of effort, logic and reasoning, and conformity to the formatting guidelines.

Please remember that the UF Writing Studio also offers excellent guidance for students looking to improve their writing skills. The studio's online tutors, instructional tutorials, and other resources can be found at: [writing.ufl.edu/writing studio](http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio).

Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner can be found at the following web address: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 - (8/22-8/26): Introducing Southeast Asia

Readings:

1. Osborne, Milton (2004). "What is Southeast Asia?" in *Southeast Asia: An Introductory History*, pp. 1-17.
2. Anthony Reid (1988). "Introduction: The Lands Below the Winds" in *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce 1450-1680*, pp. 1-12.

Week 2 - (8/29-9/2): Histories of Southeast Asia: Empires and Mandalas

Readings

1. Osborne, Milton (2004). "The 'Classical' Background to Modern Southeast Asian History" and "Courts, Kings, and Peasants" in *Southeast Asia: An Introductory History*, pp. 17-52.

Week 3 - (9/5-9/9): Histories of Southeast Asia: European Colonialism

Readings

1. Wright Osborne, Milton (2004). "The European Advance and Challenge" in *Southeast Asia: An Introductory History*, pp. 61-80.
2. Goodwin, Jeff. (2000). "Colonialism and revolution in Southeast Asia: a comparative analysis." *Revolution: Critical Concepts in Political Science* 4 (excerpt ~15 pp)

******MAP QUIZ ON 9/6******

Week 4 - (9/12-9/16): Histories of Southeast Asia: The View from the Margins

Readings

1. Scott, James. (2009). "Hills, Valleys, and States: An Introduction to Zomia" in *The Art of*

Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Southeast Asia (excerpt ~40 pp.).

Week 5 - (9/19-9/23): Nation-Building in Southeast Asia

Readings

1. *Siam Mapped*, pp.1-88

*******ESSAY #1 DUE: 9/22 by 8:00 PM on Canvas**

Week 6 - (9/26-9/30): Nation-Building in Southeast Asia, cont.

Readings

1. *Siam Mapped*, pp. 89-173

Week 7 - (10/3-10/7): Religion in Southeast Asia

Readings

1. Houben, V. "Southeast Asia and Islam" in *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, pp. 149-170.

Week 8 - (10/10-10/14): Social Identities and Social Divisions

Readings

1. Soares, D. (2011). "Conflict and Violence in Post-Independence East Timor" in *The Peace in Between*, pp. 1-16
2. Balasubramaniam, V. (2007). "A Divided Nation: Malay Dominance, Bumiputera Material Advancement and National Identity in Malaysia" in *National Identities*, pp. 34-48

*******ESSAY #2 due 10/13 by 11:59 PM on Canvas**

Week 9 - (10/17 – 10/21): Domestic and International Migration

Readings

1. Tacoli, C. (1999). "International Migration and the Restructuring of Gender Identities: Continuity and Change among Female Filipina Migrants" in *International Migration Review*

2. Margold, J. (2004). "Filipina Depictions of Migrant Life for Their Kin at Home" in *Coming Home: Refugees, Migrants, and Those Who Stayed Behind*

Week 10 - (10/24 – 10/28): Urbanization and Citizenship

Readings

1. *Citizen Designs*, prologue, chapters 1-4

Week 11 - (10/31 – 11/4): Urbanization and Citizenship

Readings

1. *Citizen Designs*, chapters 5-10, epilogue

Week 12 - (11/7– 11/11): Current Events: Domination from the North

Readings

1. Heng, K. (2019). "Chinese Investment Strains Cambodian Society" in *Nikkei Asian Review*, pp. 1-5
2. Bühler, T. (2020). "Effects of Chinese Investments in Sihanoukville on the Local Community" in *Journal of Asia Pacific Studies*, pp. 799-813.
3. Lu, J. (2020). "Grounding Chinese Investment: Encounters between Chinese Capital and Local Land Politics in Laos" in *Globalizations*, pp. 1-14.

*******ESSAY #3 due 11/10 by 8:00 PM on Canvas**

Week 13 - (11/14-11/18): Current Events: Politics and Culture in Myanmar

Readings

1. Charney, M. (2021). "Myanmar Coup: How the Military Has Held Onto Power for 60 years" in *The Conversation*, 8 pp.
2. Prasse-Freeman, E. and Kabya, K. (2021). "Revolutionary Responses to the Myanmar Coup" in *Anthropology Today*, 2 pp.

*****IN-CLASS FILM SCREENING ON MYANMAR MILITARY COUP*****

Week 14 - (11/21-11/25): Southeast Asia and American Foreign Policy

****NO CLASS ON THURSDAY, 11/24, DUE TO THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Readings

1. *The Spirit Catches You*, pp. 1-92

Week 15 - (11/29-12/3): Southeast Asia and American Foreign Policy, cont.

Readings

1. *The Spirit Catches You*, pp. 93-153

***IN-CLASS FILM SCREENING: DAUGHTER FROM DANANG (2002)

Week 16 - (12/6-12/8): Current Events: Politics and Culture in Myanmar

Readings

3. Charney, M. (2021). "Myanmar Coup: How the Military Has Held Onto Power for 60 years" in *The Conversation*, 8 pp.
4. Prasse-Freeman, E. and Kabya, K. (2021). "Revolutionary Responses to the Myanmar Coup" in *Anthropology Today*, 2 pp.

*******ESSAY #4 due 12/7 at 8:00 PM on Canvas**

*******Research Paper due 12/14 by 11:59 on Canvas**

Resources for Students:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.