

# International Studies 150

## An Introduction to Southeast Asian Studies

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Spring Term 2016

Monday and Wednesday: 3-4:30pm

Classroom: Maathai 304

Office: Maathai 310

Office Hours: By appointment (I am usually in the office, just let me know a bit ahead)



### **THE COURSE**

INTS 150, an Introduction to Southeast Asian Studies, provides a multidisciplinary glimpse into one of the most diverse regions of the world. No other region features the range of faiths, cultures, languages, economic development, and regime types found in Southeast Asia.

The course has two sections. The first section introduces the countries of Southeast Asia: Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Intended to serve as a concise introduction to the region, this section concludes with a mid-term examination. The second, larger part of the course looks at key themes and debates that span the region. This section seeks to explore Southeast Asia through a range of disciplines, touching on historical, anthropological, economic, political, geographical, sociological, and cultural debates and issues.

The primary objective of this course is to stimulate your interest in the region. If it satisfies your interest in Southeast Asia, I will have failed. The course should make you want to visit the region and study it in greater detail. Other learning objectives include developing an appreciation of the region's diverse cultures (they are living cultures and are not 'exotic'), a nuanced understanding of colonialism and its legacies, and a better picture of some of the many barriers to development.

## **POLICIES**

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First: I place great emphasis on constructive participation. The classroom is a place to share ideas / opinions and to challenge each other, but always respectfully: listening to fellow students; communicating effectively regarding assignments; arriving on time; avoiding gender, racial, or religious insensitivities; and completing the required readings.

Second: Communication. I am always available via email, but if you have a general question, other students may want to hear the answer, so ask it in class to gain the participation mark that you deserve. For assignments, email is no substitute for face to face chats. So come and talk to me. In the event of an illness or personal emergency, you must contact me before a given deadline. Late assignments will be deducted 5% per day, including weekends, beginning at the end of class.

Third: The course has an online presence via Brightspace. Here, you will find course news, the syllabus (which may be updated from time to time), a course calendar, and links. Under the 'Content' tab, you will find links to readings as well as lecture notes.

Fourth: I expect professionalism in all written assignments: avoid casual internet sources at all costs (especially wiki), avoid contractions, and present a clear argument with broad implications. Students should consult with the instructor regarding the research question and organization of major written assignments.

Fifth: All written assignments must be submitted to the instructor in hard and electronic copies, as well as submitted to Turnitin via Brightspace. I actually do not like turnitin, but also see plagiarism as a serious academic offense. I hope turnitin can be seen as an educational tool, helping students understand the difference between citation, paraphrasing, and plagiarism.

## **GRADING**

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Soka grading is organized in terms of letter grades: A, B+, C-, etc, as well as a 0-4 grade point average. This is how the percentage points in this course will translate into these scales:

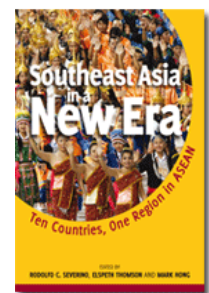
90-100	A+	4.0	65-69	B-	2.7
85-89	A	4.0	60-64	C+	2.3
80-84	A-	3.7	55-59	C	2.0
75-79	B+	3.3	50-55	C-	1.7
70-74	B	3.0	>50	F	1.0

## **READINGS**

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*Southeast Asia in a New Era: Ten Countries, One Region in ASEAN*, edited by Rodolfo C. Severino, Elspeth Thomson, & Mark Hong (Singapore: ISEAS, 2010)

This textbook provides brief overviews of the histories, cultures, economics, and politics of Southeast Asian countries. Students will need this book for the first section of the class. You can order it through the publisher (<http://bookshop.iseas.edu.sg>) or contact the professor, who has some extra copies (first come, first serve!).



### *Academic Journal Articles*

Students are also expected to read articles assigned from academic journals. Academic articles are typically detailed and hypothesis-driven, and are thus more difficult reading than course textbooks, which tend to be descriptive. If you find an article to be particularly challenging, bring your questions to class. The articles are linked to on the Brightspace site.

## EVALUATION

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10%	Participation	Ongoing
15%	Country Paper & Presentation	17 February through 21 March
10%	Midterm	28 March (Monday)
10%	Presentations	28 March through 11 May
05%	Paper Outline	04 May (Wednesday)
05%	Postcards	09 May (Monday)
25%	Thematic Paper	16 May (Monday)
20%	Final Exam	TBA (18-24 May)

**Participation:** 10% of your grade will be based on respectful participation. This means asking insightful questions, engaging with colleagues, punctuality, attendance, not playing on the internet, and communicating with me regarding assignments. **Evaluation ongoing**

**Country Paper & Presentation:** 15% of your grade will be based on writing a short (3-4 pages, double-spaced) historical overview of a Southeast Asian country of your choice and sharing it with the class. Instead of a descriptive history, what I have in mind is the history of some aspect of the country which you find interesting. For example, you could ask where Thai Buddhism comes from or where Indonesian Democracy started. Students will present their paper (briefly) in class (about 5 minutes). **Due on day of relevant class (17 Feb – 21 March)**

**Mid-term:** 10% of your grade will be earned through a brief mid-term, a take-home examination based on the countries discussed in the first section of the course. Students will select one of three short-answer questions to answer in 500 words or fewer. **Due Monday, 28 March**

**Presentations:** 10% of your grade will come from student-led presentations during the thematic section of the course. Students will select a theme which they are interested in and work with the instructor to provide a focused mini-lecture which complements the day's discussion. Themes are first come, first serve. I prefer two students per theme, but will also consider small group presentations. **Present on day of relevant class (28 Mar – 11 May)**

**Thematic Paper Outline:** 5% of your grade will be earned through creating a brief (about one page) outline for your thematic paper. The outline should present your research question, a tentative argument, and two major academic sources with brief descriptions. **Due to in class on Wednesday, 04 May**

**Postcards:** 5% of your grade will be earned by designing and writing a postcard from a real or imagined tourist visiting a Southeast Asian country. They will be judged on primarily creativity. Have fun with this one—with your permission, I would like to post them outside of my office. **Due in class on Monday, 09 May**





**Thematic Paper:** 25% of your grade will be earned through a research paper which explores the themes discussed in the course. Papers must include four to six distinct citations and should be 6-8 pages long. **Due in class on Monday, 16 May** (printed and electronic copies please).

**Final Exam:** 20% of your grade will be assessed through a final exam which will focus on major themes and debates explored in the course. **TBA (do not book travel 18-24 May!)**


# CALENDAR

<b>08 Feb</b> Monday Session 01	<b>Introduction</b> What is Southeast Asia? What do you associate with the region?
<i>Readings</i>	Shane J. Barter, "Southeast Asia: Unity in Diversity" (forthcoming); pp. 1-10. <b>AND</b> Daljit Singh, "Southeast Asia: An Overview," in <i>Southeast Asia in a New Era: Ten Countries, One Region in ASEAN</i> , edited by Rodolfo C. Severino, Elspeth Thomson, & Mark Hong (Singapore: ISEAS, 2010); pp. 3-24
<b>10 Feb</b> Wednesday Session 02	<b>Neither India, nor China</b> What is distinct about Southeast Asia? <i>Java &amp; Vietnam, Hinduism &amp; Confucianism</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Richard Winstedt, " <a href="#">Indian Influence in the Malay World</a> ," <i>Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain &amp; Ireland</i> 2 (October 1944); pp. 186-196 <b>AND</b> John K. Whitmore, " <a href="#">Social Organization and Confucian Thought in Vietnam</a> ," <i>Journal of Southeast Asian Studies</i> 15:2 (September 1984); pp. 296-306

# COUNTRIES


<b>15 Feb</b>	<b>President's Day Holiday: No Class</b>	
<b>17 Feb</b> Wednesday Session 03	<b>Vietnam</b>	
<i>Readings</i>	Le Dang Doanh & Pham Hoang Ha, "Vietnam", pp. 223-240	
<b>22 Feb</b>	<b>Class to be Rescheduled (apologies...)</b>	
<b>24 Feb</b> Wednesday Session 04	<b>Cambodia &amp; Laos</b>	
<i>Readings</i>	Sorpong Peou, "Cambodia," pp. 47-63 <b>AND</b> Martin Stuart-Fox, "Laos," pp. 97-109	
<b>29 Feb</b> Monday Session 05	<b>Myanmar / Burma</b>	
<i>Readings</i>	Tin Maung Maung Than & Kyaw Yin Hlaing, "Myanmar," pp. 135-156 <b>OPTIONAL VIDEO: BURMA VJ</b>	
<b>02 March</b> Wednesday Session 06	<b>Thailand</b>	
<i>Readings</i>	Pavin Chachavalpongpun, "Thailand," pp. 201-220 <b>AND</b> Associated Press, " <a href="#">Thai Printer of International New York Times Blocks Stories for Third Time</a> ," <i>Al Jazeera</i> (04 December 2015).	

<b>07 March</b> Monday Session 07	<b>Malaysia</b>	
<i>Readings</i>	Johan Saravanamuttu & Ooi Kee Beng, "Malaysia," pp. 113-130	

<b>09 March</b> Wednesday Session 08	<b>Singapore &amp; Brunei</b>	
<i>Readings</i>	Ho Khai Leong, "Singapore," pp. 181-198 AND P. Thambipillai, "Brunei," pp. 27-43	

<b>14-18 March</b>	<b>Spring Break: No Classes</b> (does this seem early to you?)
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<b>21 March</b> Monday Session 09	<b>Indonesia</b>	
<i>Readings</i>	J. Soedradjad & Leonard C. Sebastian, "Indonesia," pp. 67-91	
	OPTIONAL VIDEO: THE ACT OF KILLING	

<b>23 March</b> Wednesday Session 10	<b>Philippines</b>	
<i>Readings</i>	Noel M. Morada, "The Philippines," 161-177	

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## THEMES

<b>***MID-TERM DUE: Monday, 28 March***</b>	
<b>28 March</b> Monday Session 12	<b>Colonial Rule</b> Would Southeast Asia be better off today if not for colonial rule? <i>Compare: Philippines &amp; Thailand</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Michael Hawkins, " <a href="#">Imperial Historicism &amp; American Military Rule in the Philippines' Muslim South</a> ," <i>Journal of Southeast Asian Studies</i> 39:3 (2008); pp. 411-429
<b>30 March</b> Wednesday	<b>Class to be Rescheduled (apologies...)</b>
<b>04 April</b> Monday Session 13	<b>Independence Struggles</b> How did paths to statehood influence subsequent development? <i>Compare: Indonesia &amp; Malaysia</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Stef Scagliola, " <a href="#">The Silences and Myths of a 'Dirty War': Coming to Terms with the Dutch-Indonesian Decolonization War (1945-49)</a> ," <i>European Review of History</i> 14:2 (2007); pp. 235-262
<b>06 April</b> Wednesday Session 14	<b>Religion (with guest Richard Fox)</b> What is the role of faith in Southeast Asian politics & societies? <i>Buddhist Sanghas, Catholicism, Islam</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Michael Jerryson, " <a href="#">Appropriating a Space for Violence: State Buddhism in Southern Thailand</a> ," <i>Journal of Southeast Asian Studies</i> 40:1 (2009); pp. 33-57
<b>***EVENT: Richard Fox on Balinese Hinduism (6pm)***</b>	

<b>11 April</b> Monday Session 15	<b>Violence</b> Why has Southeast Asia seen so many wars within states? <i>Vietnam, Cambodia's Killing Fields, &amp; Aceh, Indonesia</i>
Readings	Geoffrey Robinson, " <a href="#">Rawan is as Rawan Does: The Origins of Disorder in New Order Aceh</a> ," <i>Indonesia</i> 66 (October 1998); pp. 127-157

<b>13 April</b> Wednesday Session 16	<b>Democracy</b> Why are some Southeast Asian countries democratic, while most are not? <i>Soft Authoritarianism, People Power, Reformasi, Saffron Revolution</i>
Readings	Andrew Wells-Dang, " <a href="#">Political Space in Vietnam: A View from the 'Rice-Roots'</a> ," <i>The Pacific Review</i> 23:1 (March 2010); pp. 93-112 <b>AND</b> Joshua Kurlantzik, " <a href="#">Violence Flares in Laos</a> ," <i>Asia Unbound</i> (29 January 2016)

<b>18 April</b> Monday Session 17	<b>Development</b> Why have some countries become rich, while others remain poor? <i>Compare: Singapore &amp; The Philippines</i>
Readings	W.G. Huff, " <a href="#">What is the Singapore Model of Economic Development?</a> " <i>Cambridge Journal of Economics</i> 19 (1995); pp. 739-759 <b>OR</b> John T. Sidel, " <a href="#">Philippine Politics in Town, District, &amp; Province: Bossism in Cavite and Cebu</a> ," <i>The Journal of Asian Studies</i> 56:4 (November 1997); pp. 947-966

<b>20 April</b> Wednesday Session 18	<b>Urban</b> What are the challenges of urban life in Southeast Asia? <i>Urbanization, street children, inequality, cosmopolitanism, rapid transit</i>
Readings	Harriott Beazley, " <a href="#">Voices From the Margins: Street Children's Subcultures in Indonesia</a> ," <i>Children's Geographies</i> 1:2 (2003); pp. 181-200

**\*\*\*Potential Class Trip to Los Angeles (Sunday 24 April)\*\*\***

<b>25 April</b> Monday Session 19	<b>Rural</b> What are the challenges of rural life in Southeast Asia? <i>Temples, art, gardens, Mandala politics, cockfighting</i>
Readings	Clifford Geertz, " <a href="#">Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight</a> ," <i>Daedalus</i> 134:4 (Fall 2005); pp. 56-86

<b>27 April</b> Wednesday Session 20	<b>Highlands</b> How does topography thwart the state and development? <i>Highland &amp; Lowland Societies</i>
Readings	James Scott, <i>The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia</i> (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009), Chapter Eight, pp. 283-323

<b>02 May</b> Monday Session 21	<b>Women</b> In what ways have women achieved equality in Southeast Asia? <i>Kartini, Buddhism &amp; Nuns, markets, Islamic Feminism</i>
Readings	Nancy J. Smith-Hefner, " <a href="#">Javanese Women &amp; the Veil in Post-Suharto Indonesia</a> ," <i>The Journal of Asian Studies</i> 66:2 (May 2007); pp. 389-420

**\*\*\*ESSAY OUTLINE DUE: Wednesday, 04 May\*\*\***

<b>04 May</b> Wednesday Session 22	<b>Gender &amp; Sexuality</b> How official gender identities vary with practised lives? <i>Natalism, Singapore Graduate Mothers, Kathoey, waria, masculinity</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Geraldine Heng & Janadas Devan, "State Fatherhood: The Politics of Nationalism, Sexuality, and Race in Singapore," in <i>Bewitching Women, Pious Men: Gender &amp; Body Politics in Southeast Asia</i> (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995); pp. 195-216 <b>AND</b> Han ten Brummelhuis, " <a href="#">Transformations of Transgender: The Case of Thai Kathoey</a> ," <i>Journal of Gay &amp; Lesbian Studies</i> 9:2-3 (1999); pp. 121-139

**\*\*\*POSTCARDS DUE: Monday, 09 May\*\*\***

<b>09 May</b> Monday Session 23	<b>Tourism</b> Does tourism benefit Southeast Asian countries? <i>Sex tourism, trafficking, ecotourism, enclaves, backpackers</i>
<i>Readings</i>	David Leheny, " <a href="#">A Political Economy of Asian Sex Tourism</a> ," <i>Annals of Tourism Research</i> 22:2 (1995); pp. 367-384

<b>11 May</b> Wednesday Session 24	<b>Pop Culture</b> Do Southeast Asian subcultures simply mimic western trends? <i>Postcolonial literature, television &amp; cinema, Aceh Punks, Iwan Fals, Dengue Fever</i>
<i>Readings</i>	Michael Bodden, " <a href="#">Rap in Indonesian Youth Music of the 1990s: Globalization, Outlaw Genres, &amp; Social Protest</a> ," <i>Asian Music</i> (Fall 2005); pp. 1-26

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**\*\*\*THEMATIC PAPERS DUE: Monday, 16 May\*\*\***

<b>16 May</b> Monday Session 25	<b>Conclusions &amp; Review</b>
<i>Readings</i>	Donald Emmerson, " <a href="#">Southeast Asia: What's in a Name?</a> " <i>Journal of Southeast Asian Studies</i> 15:1 (March 1984); pp. 1-21

**\*\*\*FINAL EXAM: TBA (18-24 May)\*\*\***

(Likely Wednesday, 18 May)



