Summer Semester 2018

“Comparative Politics of East and Southeast Asia”

Syllabus

Thursday, Rm 02.023, 12-14

Moodle Password: Yonsei
(all required readings and the list of books for the book review are online, along with my presentation slides)

Office hours: Wednesdays, 10:15-12:00, Rm 03.008 (sign up online!)

Asia is the largest and most diverse continent in the world. This course will cover key thematic issues of politics in two of four major regions of Asia – East and Southeast Asia. Covering the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the two Chinas, the two Koreas, and Japan, we will examine challenges of state formation and nation-building; socioeconomic development; democracy and dictatorship; the role of state and non-state actors; and political parties. This course emphasizes conceptual issues, empirical evidence, and theoretical puzzles that resonate in East and Southeast Asian politics, but which are also relevant to other regions of the world. The general aim of the course is to study the current issues of (South)-East Asian politics in light of the historical evolution of different and diverse societies. While comparative in nature, the course will also emphasize paired comparisons of recent country-level developments (i.e., South and North Korea, Malaysia and Singapore, Thailand and Myanmar).

This course is designed for students to: (1) gain conceptual and empirical knowledge of the dynamic processes of the Asian Politics; (2) achieve a
contextual and theoretical understanding of emerging issues in Southeast Asian politics; (3) locate Asian politics within the global context and provide a comparative perspective. In so doing, this course will balance the focus on both country specific politics and thematic issues relevant to Asian countries.

Assignment, expectations and grades
There are three components to course assignments. These three components will be used to evaluate your performance in the course. The percentage worth of each assignment for the final grade is in parentheses. Components (1) to (2) will be assigned with two credit points in total; component (3) will be assigned with four or six credit points. The details of assignments are as below:

(1) A book review (50%): Each student will select an academic book from the list of books for the course and write a 2 to 3 pages review of it. The review should identify (1) the main issue; (2) explicit or implicit research questions; (3) method of research and reasoning; (4) a critique of the book; and (5) the book’s contribution to our understanding of Asian politics. Your review should reflect on the theories and empirical evidence from the course readings. The due date for this review is June 1, 2018. No exceptions will be accepted. NOTE: All written assignments should be double-spaced pages with 12 point Times New Roman font and contain page numbers.

(2) Overnight exam (50%): This is a take-home exam. The overnight exam will be handed out in class on June 14, 2018, and is due the following day (June 15, 2018), at midnight (per email). No exceptions will be accepted.

(3) Final exam: A 60/90 minute final exam will be offered to those students who seek additional 4/6 credit points. The date for the final exam is July 26, 2018. The usual IPW rules and procedures concerning registration for exams apply.

Course Policy
a. Attendance: Attendance is required for this course. If you need to be absent from the class, it is your responsibility to notify me in advance. When you are absent, it is in your benefit to borrow notes from a classmate or ask a classmate what you missed. I will have attendance markup-sheets for every class.

b. Plagiarism: There is zero tolerance for plagiarism.

c. Policy on late assignments: Assignments are due on the dates specified in this syllabus. Late work will not be accepted and will receive zero credit. If you are unable to complete an assignment on time due to illness or a personal emergency, you can request an extension with the supporting documents, such as a medical note from a doctor.

d. Policy on special needs: If you require special accommodation due to a documented physical or medically classified different learning capacity, please come see me during the first week of class or any time throughout the semester to discuss how I might best assist you in meeting the objectives and requirements of this course.
### 1. Introduction to the course

### 26.04.2018

**2. Western colonialism, Japanese occupation and the route to independence in East and Southeast Asia**

*Required readings:*

*Suggest readings*

### 03.05.2018

**3. Nation-building and political order in plural societies**

*Required reading*

**Suggested reading**

**10.05.2018** No class (holiday)

**17.05.2018** 4. State, development and developmental states in Asia

**Required reading**

**Suggested reading**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required reading:</th>
<th>Suggested reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

5. Democracy and Democratization

Required reading:

Suggested reading

31.05.2018  No class (holiday)
01.06.2018  Book review due
07.06.2018  6. Authoritarianism

**Required Readings:**

**Suggested Readings**

14.06.2018  7. Authoritarianism and Democracy in Asia: South and North Korea
**Required Reading**


**Suggested Reading**

- Bertelsmann Transformation Index 2018 (https://www.bti-project.org/en/index/), latest reports available are the BTI 2016 country reports. The BTI 2018 country reports will be made available by the instructor.

15.06.2018 **Overnight exam due at midnight**

21.06.2018 **8. Constitutions, Constitutionalism and Human Rights in Asia**

**Required Reading**


**Suggested Readings**

**28.06.2018**

**9. The politics of the Internet and social media in Asia**

**Required Reading**

**Suggested Readings**

**05.07.2018**

**10. Middle classes and political development in Asia**
**Required reading**

**Suggested Readings:**

**12.07.2018**

**11. Military and politics**

**Required readings:**

**Suggested readings**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>19.07.2018</th>
<th><strong>13. Political parties and party systems in Asia</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required readings:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Slater, Dan and Joseph Wong 2013. The Strength to Concede: Ruling Parties and Democratization in Developmental Asia, Perspectives on Politics 11(3).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suggested Readings</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 26.07.2018 | **Final exam** |