Course Title - International Relations of Southeast Asia
Course Code - M.A.(DLB) 0478
Semester - Spring 2020

Course Information

Course Duration: February - May
Credit Hours: 4
Class Timings: 2:40-5:40pm (Tuesdays)
Location: T1-S30

Instructor’s Information

Instructor: Dr. Nehginpao Kipgen
Email: nkipgen@jgu.edu.in
Office: Cabin No. 7, T-3, Second Floor (Faculty Offices)
Office Hours: 1:30-2:30pm (Tuesdays)
Faculty Page: http://www.jsia.edu.in/dr-nehginpao-kipgen/
CSEAS Page: http://www.jsia.edu.in/center-southeast-asian-studies-cseas/
Southeast Asia consists of 11 sovereign states - Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. These countries share historical, political, economic, cultural and social ties, and all but East Timor are members of the regional bloc called Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The regional bloc has taken several initiatives to integrate member states, including developing a single market that would ensure the free flow of goods, services, investment, skilled labor, and capital. Nonetheless, the region is far from being homogeneous and encompassing with different political institutions, diverse languages and cultures. Primarily because of its geostrategic location and the economic potential, Southeast Asia has attracted greater interest from its neighboring countries as well as the Western democracies. In recent years, the region has seen not only increased engagement and cooperation but also strategic competition and power rivalry between some of the world’s major powers. Refugee crisis, the decline of democracy, the rise of populism and a hybrid regime, and the growing tension over the South China Sea disputes have been some recent major developments in the region. This class will introduce students the international relations of Southeast Asia with other states, including the United States, Canada, China, Australia, Japan, India, Russia, and the European Union, as well as the region’s cooperation challenges on issues such as the Rohingya crisis and the South China Sea disputes.

In each class, I will first briefly discuss the focus, scope, and contents of each week’s topic and raise some questions to the students, which will be followed by student(s) presentation and discussion. While giving presentation, students are expected to go beyond stating facts and figures from the contents of the reading materials and critically examine them. The presenter(s) should be raising questions and or comments for the rest of the class to discuss. Students are encouraged to do extra readings for both presentation and research paper. Since this is a seminar course, I am not in class to give a one-way lecture but to help facilitate discussion and interact with students. Students are not only encouraged but expected to analyze in a critical way and speak out clearly their views. Students should be prepared to raise questions and provide intellectual responses to questions and comments from their peers.

Objectives

- To understand the overarching history and politics of Southeast Asia
- To introduce students the international relations of Southeast Asia vis-a-vis the United States, Canada, China, Australia, Japan, India, Russia, and the European Union
- To examine the region’s cooperation challenges on issues such as the Rohingya crisis and the South China Sea disputes

- To examine the future prospect of Southeast Asia

**Reading Materials**

Most of the reading materials (if not all) will be made available in an online NB platform. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that he/she has access to it.

**Mode of Assessment**

**Class Participation [7%]:** The student’s analysis of each week’s topic based on the reading of the given materials needs to be shown in every class. Students are expected to pay close attention to lectures and take note. Apart from presentation and discussion, the student’s understanding of the reading materials will be randomly checked.

**Presentation [13 x 2 = 26%]:** Each student will choose or be assigned topics in week 1 or 2 and there will be one or more presentation in every class. Approval of the instructor is required for the topics. Either PowerPoint or handout is required for presentation. All students, except the presenter, should submit one or more topic-related questions to the instructor by email one day before the class. Late or no submission will be penalized (one mark for every class).

**Research Paper [27%]:** Each student is required to write a short research paper (between 3,000 to 3,500 words) on an assigned or chosen topic. Approval of the instructor is required for topic selection. Presentation and research paper topics can be the same. Any academic referencing/citation style (such as Chicago, Harvard, or APA) is welcome but must be consistent throughout the paper. A minimum of 3 books, 8 journal articles and 4 newspaper articles should be used as reference. JSTOR, Project Muse and Google Scholar are some good resources for academic materials (don’t use Wikipedia as academic source). Research paper is due in week 12. No late submission will be accepted/graded. The paper must be typed in Times News Roman with 12-font size and double spacing.

**Final Exam [40%]:** Final exam will be take-home and will cover all the topics in the syllabus. Questions will be in essay format.
**Minimum Pass Mark:** To pass this course, a student must obtain a minimum of 50% of total course marks.

**JGU Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Value</th>
<th>Total Course Marks</th>
<th>Grade Definitions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>80 and above</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Exceptional knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and extraordinary critical and analytical ability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>75 to 79</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sound knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and critical and analytical ability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>70 to 74</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sound knowledge of the subject matter, excellent organizational capacity, ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles, critically analyze existing materials and originality in thinking and presentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>65 to 69</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Good understanding of the subject matter, ability to identify issues and provide balanced solutions to problems and good critical and analytical skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>60 to 64</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Average understanding of the subject matter, limited ability to identify issues and provide solutions to problems and reasonable critical and analytical skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>55 to 59</td>
<td>Acceptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Adequate knowledge of the subject matter to go to the next level of study and reasonable critical and analytical skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50 to 54</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Limited knowledge of the subject matter and irrelevant use of materials and, poor critical and analytical skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Below 50</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Poor comprehension of the subject matter; poor critical and analytical skills and marginal use of the relevant materials. Will require repeating the course.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Academic Integrity**

Students should read, think, assimilate and attempt assignments. Wherever possible, students are encouraged to present ideas in their own simple words, demonstrating their own understanding of the issues involved and analysis thereof. Original thinking and writing as well as adeptness in the use of various concepts of social science research methods will be rewarded. Students should always consult the instructor about the veracity and authenticity of a particular source and its suitability for their research paper. If a student is relying on the authority of another scholar or any website, he/she should always acknowledge the source. Plagiarism means to take the words or an idea of someone else and pass it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is a serious matter and will be penalized. Students should not plagiarize any content, be it from scholarly sources (such as books and journal articles) or from the internet. The university has strict policy with consequences for students involved in plagiarism.

**Participation/Attendance Policy**

The university policy is that students with below 75% attendance will be debarred from the final exam. In other words, students with below 75% attendance will fail the course regardless of the overall performance. Any student coming late to class, without prior permission, will be marked absent.

**Use of Mobile Phone/Laptop**

Mobile/cell phone should always be switched off, which means, students are not allowed to use, make or receive phone calls during class. Doing so will lead to a student being marked absent. There will be a break during which phones can be used. Computer may be used only for class-related activities, such as taking notes or accessing reading materials. Use or access of social networking sites, such as Facebook, WhatsApp or Twitter during class is strictly prohibited.
Class Schedule

Week 1: History and Politics of Southeast Asia: An Overview

Required Readings


Recommended Readings


Week 2: Regimes and Transitions in Southeast Asia

Required Readings


Recommended Readings


Week 3: The Overarching International Relations of Southeast Asia

Required Readings


Recommended Readings


Week 4: Southeast Asia and the United States

Required Readings


Recommended Readings


**Week 5: Southeast Asia and the European Union**

**Required Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


---

**Week 6: Southeast Asia and Canada**

**Required Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


---

**Week 7: Southeast Asia and China**

**Required Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


**Week 8: Southeast Asia and Australia**

**Required Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


**Week 9: Southeast Asia and Japan**

**Required Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


Week 10: Southeast Asia and India

Required Readings


Recommended Readings


Week 11: Southeast Asia and Russia

Required Readings


Recommended Readings


Week 12 (Research Paper Due): Southeast Asia and South China Sea Disputes

Required Readings


Recommended Readings


Week 13: Southeast Asia and the Rohingya Crisis

Required Readings


Recommended Readings


Week 14: Future of Southeast Asia

Required Readings

Acharya, Amitav. 2014. “Remaking Southeast Asian Studies: Doubt, Desire and the Promise

Recommended Readings


Week 15: Revision

No Readings

We will go over the topics covered throughout the semester and I will address any questions or doubts you may have. This is a good time for students to brainstorm for the final exam. This is mandatory class and attendance will be taken as usual.