

Darren Zook  
Political Science 149  
Fall 2015  
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Office hours: Tues 1:30-3, Weds 2-3:30 (122 Stephens)

## **THE POLITICS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA:** **CRISIS, CONFLICT AND REFORM**

This course will focus on the transformative process through which the nations of contemporary Southeast Asia have confronted political crises and instability and the various levels of success with which they have attempted to implement comprehensive programs of reform. This course will analyze several different areas of political activity, such as: state-led initiatives (political economy) regarding development and resource distribution; citizen and opposition movements both within and outside formal state institutions which seek to influence, alter, or overturn state action and policy; institution-building and the cultivation of social capital; and regional and transnational flows of capital and labor which act in alliance with or in opposition to national economic institutions. Specific topics will include a comparative analysis of state policy; the relationship between illicit economies (such as narcotics) and ethnic insurgency; the nascent political voice of religion and ethnicity as nationalist or opposition ideologies; the expansion and influence of local NGOs (legal aid, human rights, women's rights, etc.); political violence and alternative paths to the expression of discontent; and corruption. After a general overview of Southeast Asia as a regional political theater, we will turn our attention to a series of in-depth case studies.

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Your **grade** will be evaluated using four elements:

First midterm (25%) (due 7 October)  
Second midterm (25%) (due 4 November)  
Final paper (40%) (due 14 December by 4 pm)  
Attendance and demeanor (10%)

The required **text** for this course is:

*Course Reader* (available from Copy Central on Bancroft Ave.)

# Syllabus

## **Week One: The partially empty first week**

1. [No class]
2. Introducing Southeast Asia

**Reading:** Simon Marks, "Somaly Mam: The Holy Saint (and Sinner) of Sex Trafficking," *Newsweek* (May 21, 2014), at <http://www.newsweek.com/2014/05/30/somaly-mam-holy-saint-and-sinner-sex-trafficking-251642.html>  
[this will be available as a link through the course website]

## **Week Two: Introducing Southeast Asia**

3. The role of ASEAN in Southeast Asian politics
4. Trafficking and other region-wide problems

**Reading:** Brantly Womack, "The Spratlys: From Dangerous Ground to Apple of Discord," *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 33/3 (2011): pp. 370-387 [reader]  
Olivia Khoo, "Regional Approaches to trafficking in women in South-East Asia: the role of national human rights institutions and the new ASEAN human rights body," *Australian Journal of Human Rights* 15/2 (2010): 59-82 [reader]

## **Week Three: Malaysia**

5. [No class: Labor Day holiday]
6. Unification through division: Malaysia's peculiar formation

**Reading:** Darren C. Zook, "Making Space for Islam: Religion, Science, and Politics in Contemporary Malaysia," *Journal of Asian Studies* 69/4 (2010): pp. 1143-1166 [reader]

#### **Week Four: Malaysia**

7. The politics of Islam in Malaysia: first among not-so-equals
8. The future of democracy in Malaysia

**Reading:** Ahmad Fauzi Abdul Hamid, "The Hudud Controversy in Malaysia: Religious Probity or Political Expediency?" *Southeast Asian Affairs* (2015), pp. 205-219 [reader]  
Thomas B. Pepinsky, "The New Media and Malaysian Politics in Historical Perspective," *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 35/1 (2013): pp. 83-103 [reader]

#### **Week Five: Singapore**

9. Singapore's idiosyncratic democracy
10. Singapore: Paying for civil society?

**Reading:** Marco Verweij and Ricardo Pelizzo, "Singapore: Does Authoritarianism Pay?" *Journal of Democracy* 20.2 (2009), pp. 18-32 [reader]  
Carol Soon, "Managing Cyberspace: State Regulation versus Self-Regulation," *Southeast Asian Affairs* (2015), 321-334

#### **Week Six: Singapore**

11. The efficient democracy? Myth and reality in Singapore's model
12. Singapore opens up: the popular culture of democratization

**Reading:** David Birch and Marianne Phillips, "Civic or civil contingencies? Regulation television and society in Singapore", in Philip Kitley (ed.), *Television, Regulation and Civil Society in Asia* (London, Routledge, 2002), pp. 115-130 [reader]  
Kenneth Paul Tan, "Censorship in whose name?" in Kenneth Paul Tan (ed.), *Renaissance Singapore? Economy, Culture, and Politics* (Singapore: NUS Press, 2007), pp. 71-93

## Week Seven: Indonesia

13. Becoming Indonesia: the long road through authoritarian rule
14. The many and the one: Indonesia's struggle with its own identity

**Reading:** Mun'im Sirry, "Fatwas and their controversy: The case of the Council of Indonesian Ulama," *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 44/1: pp. 100-117 [reader]  
Aaron L. Connelly, "Sovereignty and the Sea: President Joko Widodo's Foreign Policy Challenges," *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 37/1 (2015), 1-28 [reader]

## Week Eight: Indonesia

15. Politics finds its rhythm: the political uses of art in Indonesia
16. Democratic Indonesia: anxiety and uncertainty at the ballot box

**Reading:** Sidney Jones and Solahudin, "ISIS in Indonesia," *Southeast Asian Affairs* (2015), pp. 154-163 [reader]  
Rhoma Irama, "Music as a medium for communication, unity, education, and *dakwah*," in Andrew Weintraub (ed.), *Islam and Popular Culture in Indonesia and Malaysia* (London: Routledge, 2011), pp. 185-192

## Week Nine: Philippines

17. Political drama like no other: The Philippines
18. Keeping it in the family: political networks in the Philippines

**Reading:** Mark R. Thompson, "Populism and the Revival of Reform: Competing Political Narratives in the Philippines," *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 32/1 (2010), pp. 1-28 [reader]

## Week Ten: Philippines

19. The rebellion in the south: origins and prospects for peace
20. The Philippines is elsewhere: remittances and the overseas Filipino communities

**Reading:** Lorraine Carlos Salazar, "Typhoon Yolanda: The Politics of Disaster Response and Management," *Southeast Asian Affairs* (2015), 277-301 [reader]  
Renato Cruz de Castro, "The US-Philippine Alliance: An Evolving Hedge against an Emerging China Challenge," *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 31/3 (2009), pp. 399-423 [reader]

## Week Eleven: Vietnam

21. The long and difficult road to independence
22. Vietnam reforms and reinvents itself

**Reading:** Thiem H. Bui, "Deconstructing the "Socialist" Rule of Law in Vietnam: The Changing Discourse on Human Rights in Vietnam's Constitutional Reform Process," *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 36/1 (2014), pp. 77-100 [reader]  
Michele Ford and Lenore Lyons, "Outsourcing Border Security: NGO Involvement in the Monitoring, Processing and Assistance of Indonesian Nationals Returning Illegally by Sea," *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 35/2 (2013), pp. 215-234 [reader]

## Week Twelve: Vietnam

23. The strangest things: unexpected developments in Vietnam's politics
24. [Veterans Day Holiday: No class]

**Reading:** Jason Morris-Jung, "Vietnam's Online Petition Movement," *Southeast Asian Affairs* (2015), pp. 402-415 [reader]  
Hunter Marston, "Bauxite Mining in Vietnam's Central Highlands: An Arena for Expanding Civil Society," *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 34/2 (2012), pp. 173-196 [reader]

### **Week Thirteen: Thailand**

25. The colors of Thai politics: competing interests in the public arena

26. Revisiting Southeast Asia: How to make it all make sense

**Reading:** Aim Sinpeng and Erik Martinez Kuhonta, "From the Street to the Ballot Box: The July 2011 Elections and the Rise of Social Movements in Thailand," *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 34/3 (2012), pp. 389-415 [reader]

### **Week Fourteen: Thanksgiving Holiday**

27. [No lecture]

28. [No lecture]

**Reading:** No readings

### **Week Fifteen: Review**

29. Southeast Asia: A Comparative Review

30. Southeast Asia in the world: ASEAN redeems itself?

**Reading:** No readings