Course objective and description
This course provides a broad survey of politics in East and Southeast Asia (the Asia-Pacific region). The region is vast and diverse. While many countries experienced centuries of colonial rule, others were only indirectly affected. The rise of nationalism and communism in the early twentieth century transformed the region’s political systems in fundamental ways. The Cold War, during which the United States and the Soviet Union competed on a global scale, also divided the region along communist/non-communist lines.

Industrialization and rapid economic growth transformed many countries from peasant societies to modern, urban and industrial countries. Other countries remained poor and were left behind as their neighbours often underwent vast political and economic
changes. All of these forces of change have greatly influenced the political systems in the region, the ways in which groups and individuals participate in politics, and the degree to which political institutions are representative.

The course offers an analysis of the political systems of the region with an emphasis on understanding political change and its relationship to socio-economic transformation. How can we characterize the various political systems of the region? How can we explain why and how they have changed? Are Asian countries becoming more democratic? Are they developing political systems that reflect their unique historical and cultural experiences? How has the vast socio-economic transformation of the region influenced politics?

**Quercus:**
The University of Toronto has transitioned to Quercus from Blackboard. You will need your UTORid and password. Logon at [http://q.utoronto.ca](http://q.utoronto.ca)

The Instructors and Teaching Assistants will use Quercus as the primary means of delivering course communication. **Course announcements are not, by default, connected to your UofT email and settings must be updated for the link to occur.**

For help and information, please contact the help desk through the quercus website.

DO NOT direct your Quercus specific questions to instructors or TAs. We are unable to provide support for the web-based software. There are special services that you should consult. You should access the course regularly to check for announcements, broadcasts, etc.

**General Resources:**
The following list of resources in English should be useful to keep up with current events, as well as sources of general information on Asia.

**Newspapers and News magazines**
- The Economist
- The Asian Wall Street Journal
- The Financial Times
- The New York Times
- The Straits Times (Singapore)

**Journals**
- Pacific Affairs
- Pacific Review
- Asian Survey
- Asia-Pacific Viewpoint
- Journal of Asian Studies
Journal of East Asian Studies  
Journal of Contemporary Asia  
Journal of Southeast Asian Studies  
Southeast Asian Affairs  
Contemporary Southeast Asia  
Sojourn  
Critical Asian Studies (formerly the Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars)  

**Note: How to keep up with the news.** Canadian news coverage of Asia is appallingly thin. As indicated above, you need to use web-based electronic journals and news sources subscribed to by the University of Toronto library. Coverage is fairly good. Yahoo and BBC News are a good start, as well as The New York Times and the Financial Times. The Economist features updates on all the countries that we are studying. The *Asian Survey* features annual national surveys written by specialists.  

**Asian Institute website:** [http://www.munk.utoronto.ca/ai/](http://www.munk.utoronto.ca/ai/)

Check this web-page for seminars, conferences, and events on Asia at the University of Toronto. You will also find useful information on undergraduate and graduate interdisciplinary programs on Asia.

**Course requirements:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Due dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map Quiz</td>
<td>5%                TBD (test given in tutorial)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Essay –12 pages</td>
<td>20%               November 6\textsuperscript{th}, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term test (in class):</td>
<td>20%               December 4\textsuperscript{th}, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Essay – 12 pages</td>
<td>20%               March 12\textsuperscript{th}, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final test</td>
<td>20%               April 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial participation and presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
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**Please note:** We are using a university wide service called **Turnitin**. Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

**You must submit an electronic copy of your essay to Turnitin (unless prior permission is granted by the TA), AS WELL as a hardcopy. Turnitin is now integrated with Quercus under the link “Assignment Submission”**

**Textbooks:**
The following book is required reading for the course:
• Bertrand, Jacques. 2013. *Political Change in Southeast Asia*. Cambridge University Press. Available at the University of Toronto Bookstore, Koffler Centre, 214 College Street (416) 640-7900. Monday - Friday: 8:45 am - 6:00 pm; Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Sunday: CLOSED.

**Reserves:** A copy of the readings will be available on reserve at the Short-Term Loan Library at Robarts Library. The books and articles on reserve should also appear by searching by the course number, POL 215Y. *That being said, please note that many of the articles will only be available online!*

**READING LIST:**

**NOTE:** Weekly assignments are the “Required” readings. “Recommended” are interesting and helpful but not required for exam purposes. The related readings are not posted on Quercus.

Items marked with “@” are available online (links provided on Quercus under Modules “Fall Readings” and “Winter Readings”). Items marked with # are in Bertrand 2013 (textbook).

**FALL TERM: Topics and Readings**

1. September 11  Introduction

2. September 18  Explaining Political Change

**Required:**

@Bertrand, Jacques. “Understanding political change in Southeast Asia” in *Political Change in Southeast Asia*. pp. 1-30

**Recommended:**


**Historical antecedents**

3. September 25  Colonialism and Nationalism

**Required:**

4. October 2 The Cold War, Communism and its effects

Required:


5. October 9 Thailand

Required:


6. October 16 Indonesia and Timor-Leste (I)

Required:


**Recommended:**

7. October 23  Indonesia and Timor-Leste (II)
Same as last week

8. October 30  Malaysia (Guest Lecture: Jessica Soedirgo)

**Required:**


**Fall Break – No class on November 6th**

9. November 13  The Philippines (Guest Lecture: Jessica Soedirgo)

**Required:**


**Recommended:**

10. November 20          Burma/Myanmar

Required:


@ Chow, Jonathan T and Leif-Eric Easley. “Persuading Pariahs: Myanmar’s Strategic Decision to Pursue Reform and Opening” Pacific Affairs, vol. 89, no. 3: pp. 521-542

11. November 27          Southeast Asia and Democracy: New Directions?


12. December 4            **Mid-term test** (In Class)

WINTER TERM: Topics and Readings

1. January 8              Regime Change in the Asia Pacific


2. January 15             Japan: Transplanted Democracy


3. January 22             Communizing China: Radical Authoritarianism in Action

4. January 29  Developmental Authoritarianism in South Korea


Video (Pacific Century # 8: “The Struggle for Democracy.”)

5. February 5  Democratization in Taiwan


6. February 12  Authoritarian Resilience: China’s Trapped Transition?


**Reading Week – No class on February 19th**

7. February 26  North Korea under Siege


8. March 5  Reform and Change in Vietnam


9. March 12     Singapore: Emergent Competitive Authoritarianism?


10. March 19     Civil Society and Political Change in Hong Kong


11. March 26     Democratic Consolidation: Comparative Perspectives


12. April 2     Final Test (in class)