

**University of Toronto**  
**Department of Political Science**  
**POL 215Y: POLITICS AND TRANSFORMATION OF**  
**THE ASIA-PACIFIC**  
**FALL 2019-2020**

Tuesday: 10am -12pm  
Location: SS 1083

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FALL TERM ONLY: Wednesdays 1-2:30 pm, or by appointment

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**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 is using Quercus. You will need your UTORid and password. Logon at <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**

BBC News – Asia Pacific ([http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/asia\\_pacific](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/asia_pacific))

Yahoo Asia News (<http://asia.news.yahoo.com/asia.html>)

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/>

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:**

**Due dates:**

Map Quiz	5%	TBD (test given in tutorial)
First Essay –12 pages	20%	October 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2019
Mid-term test (in class):	20%	December 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2019
Second Essay – 12 pages	20%	March 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
Final test	20%	March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2020
Tutorial participation and presentation	15%	Weekly

**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 10 Introduction**
- 2. September 17 Explaining Political Change**

#### **Required:**

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

### **Historical antecedents**

- 3. September 24 Colonialism and Nationalism**

#### **Required:**

@Tipton, Frank. 1998. “Asian nationalism,” in *Rise of Asia: Economics, Society, Politics in Contemporary Asia*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press. Chap. 8, pp. 245-288.

@ Fung, Edmund. 2000. “Chinese Nationalism in the Twentieth Century,” in *Eastern Asia: an introduction history* (3rd ed.), ed. Colin Mackerras. New South Wales, Australia: Longman. pp. 139-148.

@Morris-Suzuki, Tessa. 2000. “Japanese Nationalism From Meiji to 1937,” in *Eastern Asia: an introduction history* (3rd ed.), ed. Colin Mackerras. New South Wales, Australia: Longman. pp. 149-162.

- 4. October 1 The Cold War, Communism and its effects**

#### **Required:**

@Nordholt, Henk Schulte. "Shining Futures, Imminent Dangers: New Nation-States and Mass Violence in Southeast Asia." *Asian Journal of Social Science* 44, no. 6 (2016): 711-724.

@McVey, Ruth. 1996. "Nationalism, Revolution, and Organization in Indonesian Communism," in *Making Indonesia*, eds. Daniel Lev and Ruth McVey. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. pp. 96-117.

@Stubbs, Richard. 1999. "War and Economic Development: Export-Oriented Industrialization in East and Southeast Asia" *Comparative Politics*, vol.31, no.3: pp. 337- 355.

## **5. October 8 Thailand**

### **Required:**

# Bertrand, Jacques. "Thailand" in *Political Change in Southeast Asia*. pp. 133-140.

@Chambers, Paul, and Napisa Waitookiat. "The resilience of monarchised military in Thailand." *Journal of Contemporary Asia* 46, no. 3 (2016): 425-444.

@Kuhonta, Erik and Aim Sinpeng. 2014. "Democratic Regression in Thailand: The Ambivalent Role of Civil Society and Political Institutions" *Contemporary Southeast Asia: A Journal of International and Strategic Affairs*, vol. 36, no. 3: pp. 333-355.

### **Recommended:**

McCargo, Duncan. 2005. "Network monarchy and legitimacy crises in Thailand." *Pacific Review*, vol.18, no.4: pp. 499-519.

## **6. October 15 Indonesia and Timor-Leste (I)**

### **Required:**

#Bertrand, Jacques. "Indonesia and Timor-Leste" in *Political Change in Southeast Asia*. pp. 41-70.

@Mietzner, Marcus. 2018. "Fighting Illiberalism with Illiberalism: Islamist Populism and Democratic Deconsolidation" *Pacific Affairs*, vol. 91, no. 2: pp. 261-282.

@Feijó, Rui Graça. "Perilous semi-presidentialism? On the democratic performance of Timor-Leste government system." *Contemporary Politics* 24, no. 3 (2018): 286-305.

### **Recommended:**

@Aspinall, Edward. 2010. "Indonesia: The Irony of Success" *Journal of Democracy*, vol.21, no.2: pp 20-34.

## **7. October 22 Indonesia and Timor-Leste (II)**

Same as last week

## **8. October 29 Malaysia (Guest Lecture: Jessica Soedirgo)**

### **Required:**

# Bertrand, Jacques. "Malaysia" in *Political Change in Southeast Asia*. pp. 95-108.

@Gomez, Edmun Terence. "Resisting the Fall: The Single Dominant Party, Policies and Elections in Malaysia" *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, vol. 46, no. 4 (2016): pp. 570-590.

@Abdullah, Walid Jumblatt. "The Mahathir effect in Malaysia's 2018 election: the role of credible personalities in regime transitions." *Democratization* 26, no. 3 (2019): 521-536.

**\*\*Fall Break – No class on November 5th\*\***

## **9. November 12 The Philippines (Guest Lecture: Jessica Soedirgo)**

### **Required:**

# Bertrand, Jacques. "The Philippines" in *Political Change in Southeast Asia*. pp. 71-91.

@Curato, Nicole. "Toxic Democracy? The Philippines in 2018." *Southeast Asian Affairs* 2019, no. 1 (2019): 260-274.

@Thompson, Mark R. "The Philippine presidency in Southeast Asian perspective: imperiled and imperious presidents but not perilous presidentialism." *Contemporary Politics* 24, no. 3 (2018): 325-345.

### **Recommended:**

Putzel, James. 1999. "Survival of an imperfect democracy in the Philippines." *Democratization*, vol.6, no.1: 198-223.

Teehankee, Julio C. and Mark Thompson. "Electing a Strongman?" *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 27, no. 4 (2018): pp. 125-134.

@Dressel, Björn. 2011. "The Philippines: how much real democracy?" *International Political Science Review*, vol.32, no. 5: pp. 529-545.

## **10. November 19 Burma/Myanmar**

### **Required:**

# Bertrand, Jacques. "Burma/Myanmar" in *Political Change in Southeast Asia*. pp. 190- 208.

@Selth, Andrew. "All Going According to Plan? The Armed Forces and Government in Myanmar." *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 40, no. 1 (2018): 1-26.

@Chow, Jonathan T and Leif-Eric Easley. "Persuading Pariahs: Myanmar's Strategic Decision to Pursue Reform and Opening" *Pacific Affairs*, vol. 89, no. 3 (2016): pp. 521-542

## **11. November 26 Southeast Asia and Democracy: New Directions?**

### **Required:**

#Bertrand, Jacques. "Southeast Asia in the Twenty-First Century" in *Political Change in Southeast Asia*. pp. 209-228.

@Morgenbesser, Lee, and Thomas B. Pepinsky. "Elections as Causes of Democratization: Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspective." *Comparative Political Studies* 52, no. 1 (2019): 3-35.

**12. December 3 \*\*Mid-term test\*\* (In Class)**