



2022
SUMMER PROGRAM

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East Asian Studies
Taiwan Studies

Hybrid Regimes: Democratic Challenges in Southeast Asia

Lecturer

Name	Dr. Deasy Simandjuntak
Education	Ph.D. in Social Sciences (Political Anthropology), University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
Current Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), Singapore. • Adjunct Associate Professor, National Chengchi University (NCCU), Taipei.
Research Fields	Southeast Asia's democracy and democratization, Indonesia's democracy and politics, identity-politics, decentralization

Course's Schedule

Date	July 18th, 19th, 20th, 25th, 26th and 27th, 2022
Time	09:00 to 12:00 AM

Course's Objectives

This interdisciplinary course explores various challenges to democracy in Asia in the post-Cold War period by using case studies. The course provides students with a deeper understanding of each nation's individual roadblocks for democratic governance, as well as the challenges faced in terms of structure and institutions. The course introduces various analytical concepts, tools and methodologies which will help the students to analyze possible ways of strengthening democratic traditions in the East and Southeast Asian regions. Upon completing the course, students will be able to:

- understand the differences between various regime types and able to identify the typologies across the East and Southeast Asian regions
- analyze the democratization trajectory of various nations and understand the trend of

democratic rollbacks in several case study nations, such as Myanmar, Indonesia, and to some extent, Malaysia

- identify each country's specific impediments to further democratization
- understand the role of each country's individual trajectories of nationalism and modernization on their democracy.

Course requirements/ Grading Standards

- Attendance and active participation: 10%
- 1 (one) Presentation: 20%
- 1 (one) Final essay: 25%
- 3 (three) Short essays: 45%

Reading/ Reference Materials

This course does not use specific textbooks. All reading materials (journal articles, book chapters) will be uploaded to Google Drive which is accessible to the participants. Please be advised that participants are expected to write short essays of 400 words each (three essays in total) using these readings. After the last meeting, participants choose a case study of a democratic challenge in one or two Southeast Asian countries and write a Final Essay of 1000 words.

Course Outline and Topics

Session 1 (July 18th):

Introduction to the Course

Introduction to the Problems of Democracy in Southeast Asia

- Participants going through the syllabus together
- Participants are introduced to the concepts of democracy and its contenders, e.g. hybrid regimes, authoritarianism, populism, Asian Values, single-party systems, etc.
- Participants are introduced to external and internal sources of democratic decline.
- Individual participants choose which weeks they will present their essays.
- Readings:

Morgenbesser, Lee, and Thomas B. Pepinsky. 2019. "Elections as causes of democratization: Southeast Asia in comparative perspective." *Comparative Political Studies* 52.1: 3-35.

Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan A. Way, 2010. *Competitive authoritarianism: Hybrid regimes after the Cold War*. Cambridge University Press. [Introduction chapter]

Session 2 (July 19th):

Democratic Challenges in Thailand

- Participants explores the role of monarchy, military and populism in Thailand.
- Participants explores the polarization between monarchy-military force and populist politics.
- Participants' essay presentations.
- Readings:

McCargo, Duncan, 2019. "Southeast Asia's Troubling Elections: Democratic Demolition in Thailand." *Journal of Democracy* 30.4: 119-133.

Schaffar, Wolfram, 2018. "The iron silk road and the iron fist: Making sense of the military coup d'état in Thailand." *Austrian Journal of South-East Asian Studies* 11.1: 35-52.

Session 3 (July 20th):

Democratic Challenges in the Philippines

- Participants explores the traces of authoritarianism in the Philippines
- Participants explores the current challenges of populism and political violence (extrajudicial measures)
- Participants' essay presentations.
- Readings:

Ordoñez, Matthew David, and Anthony Lawrence Borja, 2018. "Philippine liberal democracy under siege: The ideological underpinnings of Duterte's populist challenge." *Philippine Political Science Journal* 39.2: 139-153.

Quimpo, Nathan Gilbert. 2009. "The Philippines: predatory regime, growing authoritarian features." *The Pacific Review* 22.3: 335-353.

Session 4 (July 25th):

Democratic Challenges in Indonesia

- Participants explores the history of a centralized authoritarianism in Indonesia
- Participants explores the current democratic challenges pertaining to controversial laws, oligarchic role in politics, the shrinkage of the opposition, and dynastic politics.
- Participants' essay presentations.
- Readings:

Simandjuntak, Deasy. "Authoritarianism or (non-ideological) pragmatism: current challenges to Indonesia's democracy" in Azmi Sharom and Magdalen Spooner, eds. *The Spectra of Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia*, Bangkok: Mahidol University, 88-104.

Hadiz, Vedi R, 2018. "Imagine all the people? Mobilising Islamic populism for right-wing politics in Indonesia." *Journal of Contemporary Asia* 48.4: 566-583.

Session 5 (July 26th):

Democratic Challenges in Malaysia

- Participants explores the role of affirmative action policies (racial preferential policies) in curbing democracy in Malaysia.
- Participants explores the current democratic challenge of elite maneuvering which results in multiple changes of government without elections.
- Participants' essay presentations.
- Readings:

Ostwald, Kai, and Steven Oliver. 2020. "Four arenas: Malaysia's 2018 election, reform, and democratization." *Democratization* 27.4: 662-680.

Dettman, Sebastian. 2020. "Authoritarian innovations and democratic reform in the "New Malaysia"." *Democratization* 27.6: 1037-1052.

Session 6 (July 27th):

Democratic Challenges in Cambodia and Myanmar

Conclusion of the Course

- Participants explores the role China as an autocratizing factor in Cambodia.
- Participants explores the history of authoritarianism in Cambodia.
- Participants explores the current military-rule of Myanmar.
- Participants explores the human rights issue pertaining to the Rohingyas in Myanmar.
- Participants essay presentations.
- Readings:

Chheang, Vannarith, 2017. "The Political Economy of Chinese Investment in Cambodia" *ISEAS Trends in Southeast Asia* 16.

Thein-Lemelson, Seinenu M. "'Politicide' and the Myanmar coup." *Anthropology Today* 37.2 (2021): 3-5.