1. Course Emphasis: Southeast Asia is a diverse region consisting of eleven countries. Although many of these countries share critical cultural, social, economic and political links, the region is a mosaic comprised of many ethnic and linguistic groups, religious and political and economic institutions. This course introduces students to this diversity within the framework of comparative politics and to a limited extent international relations. In addition to providing diverse social, historical, economic and political background to the majority of the region’s countries, the course will focus on important themes—economic development, ethnic conflict, violence and genocide, democratization, democratic consolidation, regionalism, and the politics of external powers’ engagement.

2. Course Learning Objectives: It is expected that upon completion this course, students will demonstrate a critical understanding of politics of Southeast Asian countries within the lens of comparative politics. Additionally, it is also expected that students will be well equipped to critically discuss the merits and weaknesses of various analyses and be able to apply approaches to political situations and trends in the region and beyond.

3. Course Requirements and Activities:

A. Readings and Lectures. Please purchase a copy of textbook for this course Robert Dayley, *Southeast Asia in the New International Era*, (Boulder: Westview Press, 2017), online or at the Village Common Bookstore. Assigned readings outside the textbook are available on course blackboard. Some short readings may also be distributed in class.

Lectures will parallel and compliment the readings. As such, students cannot just rely solely on lectures or readings.

B. Homework: Homework is to complete assigned readings prior to each class meeting and follow the news from an assigned country in Southeast Asia. Some focus questions will be provided.

C. Exams, term paper and presentation:

Exams: This course will have two exams taken in class. The *midterm exam* will be on **October 16th**. The *final exam* will be on **December 06th, 2:00-3:15 pm**. Each exam will be worth **100 points**. The format of each exam will be a combination of essay and short answer. No make-up exam will be offered, except in cases of emergency, as defined by the instructor, and with advance notification.
D. Term paper: A paper of 7-9 pages in length and double spaced is required. The paper should be properly referenced, and typed. Students can use any style reference as long as they use it correctly and consistently. For reference to citation please consult this link http://libguides.niu.edu/content.php?pid=164220&sid=2027148. It will be worth 100 points and will be due on November 29th. An abstract for the paper is also required and will be worth 20 points. It will be due on November 13th.

E. Film reviews: A good review should include: 1) a brief description of the movie/documentary film; 2) analysis and interpretation of the movie/documentary film (how accurate is the movie/documentary film in depicting the subject according to the readings or your prior knowledge? Is the story told complete? Is the story convincing?); 3) evaluation of the movie/documentary film (what messages did the movie/documentary film convey? How was the message conveyed? How well are major parts connected to each other? and; 4) relate the movie/documentary film to the course. These paper should be 800-1,000 words-length. Each review will be worth 15 points.

F. Class Participation: Informed participation in class discussion is expected for it constitutes a significant portion of the total grade. It will be worth 30 points. Another part of your class participation is report to the class an update every class session news from an assigned Southeast Asian country. Active and informed participation will help those whose grade is on the borderline.

| Grade Distribution |  |
|--------------------|--|---|
| Class participation | 30 points |
| Class attendance | 50 points |
| Paper abstract | 20 points |
| Midterm exam | 100 points |
| Final exam | 100 points |
| Film review | 30 points |
| Term paper | 100 points |
| Total | 430 points |

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<th>Final Average</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>98-100%</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>94-97%</td>
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<td>90-93%</td>
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<td>88-89 %</td>
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4. **Academic Integrity.** Students are expected to know and comply with NIU polices on academic integrity (see p. 47 of 2001 Undergraduate Catalog). Any student found guilty of cheating or plagiarizing will receive an “F” for the examination and the course. He or she may also be subject to additional sanctions imposed by the university.

5. **Undergraduate Writing Awards.** The Department of Political Science will recognize, on an annual basis, outstanding undergraduate papers written in conjunction with 300-400 level political science courses or directed studies. Authors do not have to be political science majors or have a particular class standing. Winners are expected to attend the Department’s spring graduation ceremony where they will receive a certificate and $50.00. Papers, which can be submitted by students or faculty, must be supplied in triplicate to a department secretary by February 28. All copies should have two cover pages – one with the student’s name and one without the student’s name. Only papers written in the previous *calendar* year can be considered for the award. However, papers completed in the current spring semester are eligible for the following year’s competition even if the student has graduated.

6. **Statement Concerning Students with Disabilities.** Northern Illinois University is committed to providing an accessible educational environment in collaboration with the Disability Resource Center. If you need an accommodation for this class, please contact the Disability Resource Center as soon as possible. The DRC coordinates accommodations for students with disabilities. It is located on the 4th floor of the Health Services Building, and can be reached at 815-753-1303 (V) or drc@niu.edu.

Also, please contact me privately as soon as possible so we can discuss your accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs, the sooner we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

7. **Department of Political Science Web Site.** Undergraduates are strongly encouraged to consult the Department of Political Science’s web site on a regular basis. This up-to-date, central source of information will assist students in contacting faculty and staff, reviewing course requirements and syllabi, exploring graduate study, researching career options, tracking department events, and accessing important details related to undergraduate programs and activities. To reach the site, go to [http://polisci.niu.edu](http://polisci.niu.edu)

**COURSE OUTLINE:** (May subject to change as needed)

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<tr>
<th>08/28-08/30: Introduction to the course and introduction to Southeast Asia</th>
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**Suggested Reading:**
### 09/4-09/6: Colonialism and Nationalism

### 09/11-09/13: Vietnam

### 09/18-09/20: Political Violence and Genocide (focus on Cambodia and Indonesia)
- Movie: “The Act of Killing” by Joshua Oppenheimer

### 09/25-09/27: Political Violence and Genocide (continued)

### 10/2-10/4: Thailand
10/9-10/11: Myanmar
● Dayley, Southeast Asia in the New International Era, 69-100 (Myanmar chapter).

10/16 Midterm Exam
● Please bring a blue book (big size)

10/18-10/23: Corruption and Development (focus on Indonesia and the Philippines)

Suggested readings:

10/25-10/30: State and Economic Development

11/01-11/06: Asian Values
**11/8-11/13: Malaysia**

- The Economist, “At last, a cause to unite all Malaysia’s ethnic groups,” May 17, 2018.
- The Economist, “Mahathir’s back: Malaysia’s chance to clean up,” May 10th 2018.

*Paper Abstract due: 11/13*

**11/15: Authoritarian Durability, Democratic Consolidation and Stagnation**


**Suggested readings:**


**11/20-11/22: No Class**

THANKS GIVING!!

**11/27-11/29: China, the United States and Southeast Asia**

Suggested readings:


*Term Paper Due 11/29*

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<th>December 4: Catch-up and review</th>
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<th>December 6: Final exam; 2:00-3:15pm</th>
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Additional References


**Websites**

- AsiaSource (The Asia Society) [www.asiasource.org](http://www.asiasource.org)