<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecturer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturer Time and Venue</td>
<td>12.30-14.30, Friday, LHS-TR+44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Time and Venue</td>
<td>15.30-16.30, Friday, LHS-TR+44</td>
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Learning Objective

The course introduces students to the field of comparative politics that gives students a basic understanding of the political development of the countries of the Asian region. It examines the domestic political systems of Asian countries, covering the topics including democratization, democratic innovation, human rights, political parties, civil society, multiculturalism, federalism, regionalism and political Islam. The unit will enable students to analyse different interpretations of political development in Asia, to evaluate the political development of Asian states, to evaluate the character and prospects of Asian regionalism, and to examine the rise of political Islam and the Islamisation efforts in Muslim-majority states in Southeast Asia.

Course Content

Students are expected to achieve and understand the following from taking this course:

- understanding of, and the ability to work with, a systematic body of knowledge, appropriate to the focus and level of the qualification based on the highest standards of scholarship and research on the comparative politics in Asia;

- understanding and appreciation of comparative perspectives and approaches in a global environment.
# Course Outline (13 Lectures, 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Introduction</td>
<td>06 Jan</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Comparative Politics: Concepts and Methods</td>
<td>13 Jan</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Comparative Case Studies</td>
<td>20 Jan</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Democratic Innovations</td>
<td>27 Jan</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. The State, National Building and Imperial Legacy</td>
<td>3 Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Multiculturalism in Asia</td>
<td>10 Feb</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Federalism in Asia</td>
<td>17 Feb*</td>
<td>Need to re-schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Political Party, Party System, and Democratization</td>
<td>24 Feb*</td>
<td>Need to re-schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Civil Society and Political Development in Asia</td>
<td>10 Mar</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Nationalism and Contested History in Asia</td>
<td>24 Mar</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Regionalism in Asia</td>
<td>31 Mar</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Political Islam and Islamisation in Asia</td>
<td>7 April</td>
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</table>
Learning Outcome

This course is designed to contribute to the following attributes and skills of a NTU graduate:

- critical analysis, problem solving, and creative thinking
- identifying, gathering, evaluating and using information
- communicating effectively and appropriately in a range of contexts
- developing, planning and managing independent work

Assessment Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSESSMENT</th>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>DATE DUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Weekly Tutorial and Tutorial Participation</td>
<td>Oral Presentation for about 10 minutes</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Research Essay</td>
<td>2,000 words</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>13 April 2017, Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Exam</td>
<td>2.5 Hours</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Exam Period</td>
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Tutorial Presentation

The purpose of the tutorial is to cover in greater depth and detail, and to revise, the major themes and issues of the course. They will be conducted with a focus on the questions likely to appear in the end of semester examination. Each student is expected to give a short (10 minute) verbal presentation of a topic or aspect of a topic, probably with one or two other students, before general discussion and questions begin. It may also be possible for small groups of students to conduct a presentation.
Essay

The essay (2,000 words) is to be a clearly focused, critical analysis of a topic on one of the main themes of the unit. It should, above all, show an ability to critically analyse reading material and to clearly argue a particular case or point of view. Avoid simply presenting a summary of the information you have read. Nobody can be expected to make a definitive presentation of all the information about a particular topic, so the essay should go for the heart of a problem or controversy and take a clear line of argument.

The tutorial questions below are suggested essay topics; students should feel free to develop their own topics provided they consult their lecturer and tutor. Essays should be neat and legible, preferably typed. The ideas and writings of others must be given credit, otherwise you are open to charges of plagiarism. References should be cited (either by footnotes or the Harvard, bracket style) whenever information or an idea is not your own, not just for quotations. A detailed bibliography is also required.

Essay Due Date: All essays will be due on 13th April 2017, Thursday.

Extensions will in general not be granted. Essays not submitted by the due date will be subject to a late penalty.
### MARKING CRITERIA

What the Assessor will be looking for when marking this assignment

| Understanding of trends and developments involved in the political development in Asia. |
| Presentation of an original argument that effectively responds to the question. |
| Clear written expression and use of appropriate essay structure. |

### Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own, for example:

- using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source;
- using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation; or
- copying another student's work.

The intentional copying of someone else’s work as one’s own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit.

### Tutorial Questions, Required Readings and Recommended Readings

The following reading guide lists the required reading for each topic area and further recommended reading for essay and exam preparation. It is expected that students will complete all the essential required reading each week. All the essential reading is available on the internet. The students are encouraged to read some of recommended readings. Please note that NTU library does not hold all items.
Lecturer will provide additional reading during the semester. Moreover, there is a great deal of useful material available through the library’s online databases and e-journals. Many of the following periodicals held by the Library are accessible online as e-journals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE / LECTURE</th>
<th>TOPIC COVERED</th>
<th>TUTORIAL QUESTIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 1 (6 JAN 2017)</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 2 (13 JAN 2017)</td>
<td>COMPARATIVE POLITICS: CONCEPTS AND METHODS</td>
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This is the first tutorial to make presentation arrangement and no tutorial questions for this week.

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 3 (20 JAN 2017)</th>
<th>COMPARATIVE CASE STUDIES</th>
<th><strong>Tutorial Questions:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Required readings:**


DeVotta, Neil. 2010. ‘Politics and governance in

1) Using ONE of the research methods, compare ANY TWO Asian countries. Explain why you have selected this method for your analysis.

2) Design a research methods you would use to compare ANY TWO of these countries:

(a) Vietnam and Cambodia;
(b) Myanmar and Thailand;
(c) Malaysia and Indonesia.

Identify and explain the independent

Recommended readings:


3) Examine the democratic transition and reforms in Myanmar and are we looking at the rise of a illiberal democracy?

WEEK 4
(27 JAN 2017)

DEMOCRATIC INNOVATIONS

Required readings:


Tutorial Questions:

1) Discuss the trends and characteristics of democratic innovations in Asia.

2) Examine the idea of a deliberative democracy and a participatory


Recommended readings:


3) Discuss the concept of proportional representation in Asia.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 5 (3 FEB 2017)</th>
<th>THE STATE, NATIONAL BUILDING AND IMPERIAL LEGACY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Readings:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BAOGANG HE, “THE EMPIRE THESIS, Democracy, and China’s National Identity Question”.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Recommended Readings:</strong></td>
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**Tutorial Questions:**

1) To what extent has imperialism/colonialism impacted the formation of the modern statehood in Asia?
2) Examine the challenges of states formation in ANY TWO Southeast Asian nation.
3) Discuss the transformation of the post-colonial state of either a) Malaysia; OR 2) Indonesia in formulating a coherent national identity.

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<tr>
<th>WEEK 6 (10 FEB 2017)</th>
<th>MULTICULTURALISM IN ASIA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Readings:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Will Kymlicka, “Liberal Multiculturalism: Western Models, Global Trends, and Asian Debates”, in <em>Multiculturalism in Asia</em>, eds., by Will Kymlicka and Baogang He, Oxford</td>
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**Tutorial questions:**

1) How useful is Kymlicka’s typology of minority rights in understanding Southeast Asia?
2) Using Chua Beng Huat’s “Vernacular Communitarianism”,

**Recommended Readings:**


Henders, Susan (ed.) (2004) *Democratization and Identity: Regimes and Ethnicity in East and Southeast Asia* (Lexington, Lanham, MD)

**WEEK 7*  
(28 FEB 2017)**

**FEDERALISM IN ASIA**

**Required Readings:**


Edrisinha, Rohan (2005), ‘Multination Federalism

**Tutorial Questions:**

1) Examine the extent of the efficacy of hybrid federalism in any TWO Asian states.

2) Choose which variety of federalism would have been best suited to successfully promote democracy in ANY ONE of the Southeast Asian countries and why?

3) What have been the challenges of implementing federalism in a country like Myanmar? Suggest a possible pathway in which the country could take to ensure that ethnic conflicts are reduced, and to facilitate and promote democracy.


Lane, Jan-Erik and Svante Ersson (2005), ‘The Riddle of Federalism: Does Federalism Impact on Democracy?’ Democratization, 12, (2), pp. 163-182.


WEEK 8* (2 MAR 2017) POLITICAL PARTY, PARTY SYSTEM, AND DEMOCRATISATION

Required Readings:


Tutorial Questions:

1) Examine what have been some of the political cleavages that plague countries like Thailand OR the Philippines?

2) Discuss the types of democracies that are preferred in any TWO Asian countries and how this has impacted on its democratic development?

3) Examine the two approaches to democracy and how it has influenced democratic reforms in either a) Myanmar; b) the Philippines OR c) Thailand.


Hans Stockton, “Political Parties, Party Systems, and Democracy in East Asia: Lessons from Latin America”, *Comparative Political Studies*, vol. 34, no. 1, 2001, pp. 94-119.


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**WEEK 9**

(10 MAR 2017)

**CIVIL SOCIETY AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA**

*Required Readings:*


*Recommended Readings:*

Carlyle A. Thayer, “Vietnam and the Challenge of Political Civil Society”, *Contemporary Southeast Asia: A Journal of International and Strategic*

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**Tutorial Questions:**

1) Examine the model of democracy that exists in any TWO Asian countries and how has that shaped the role of civil society there.

2) Discuss the extent in which the different types of civil societies have brought about democratic reforms in any THREE Asian countries.

3) Analyse the impact of civil society groups in either Malaysia or Indonesia.
**WEEK 10 (17 MAR 2017)**

### HUMAN RIGHTS AND INDIGENOUS RIGHTS IN ASIA

**Required Readings:**


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**Tutorial Questions:**

1) Discuss the challenges faced by any ONE Asian state in implementing and ratifying substantial recognition to its indigenous populations.

2) Critically examine the concept of “Asian value”. Do you think “Asian value” is still a widely accepted notion?

3) What have been some of the approaches in safeguarding indigenous rights in any ONE of the Asian countries?


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<tr>
<th>WEEK 11 (24 MAR 2017)</th>
<th>NATIONALISM AND CONTESTED HISTORY IN ASIA</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Required Readings:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Recommended Readings:</strong></td>
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**Tutorial Questions:**

1) Discuss the extent in which ‘subjective’ and ‘objective’ ideas of national identity have impacted our understanding of history. Use any ONE Asian state as an example in your answer.

2) Examine Benedict Anderson’s concept of an ‘imagined community’ and how that has influenced a state’s national identity.

3) Discuss and examine the way in which contested history has continued to play a significant role in nationalism.
History Education and Reconciliation.


WEEK 12 (31 MAR 2017) REGIONALISM IN ASIA

Required Readings:


Tutorial Questions:

1) How far has ASEAN as a regional organisation achieve its aims of a shared community?

2) Examine the effectiveness of ASEAN in dealing with either a) the South China Sea dilemma; OR b) the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar.

3) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a hybrid form of regionalisation.
WEEK 13  
(7 APR 2017)  
POLITICAL ISLAM AND ISLAMISATION IN ASIA  

**Required Readings:**


**Tutorial Questions:**

1) Examine how political Islam has been manifested in any TWO Asian countries.

2) Examine the tenets of ‘civil Islam’ in Indonesia.

3) To what extent is political Islam and democracy compatible or not compatible? Select any TWO Asian countries in your analysis.

**Recommended Readings:**

Means, Gordon P. *Political Islam in Southeast Asia* (Malaysia: Strategic Information and Research Development Centre (SIRD), 2009)


Case, William F., and Liew Chin-Tong, “How committed is PAS to Democracy and How do we
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Details</th>
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