

Comparative Politics of Southeast Asia

POLS 3388.001

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2p to 3:20p.

Professor: Dr. Robert Sterken

Office Location: CAS 116

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The best way to contact me is: Email. I do not regularly check Canvas messages.

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 2p and by appointment and in zoom.

Course Information

This course examines the politics of Southeast Asia. We will examine pathways to development (whatever that is), the role of democracy and authoritarian, the conditions that promote or impede transitions to democracy, and the impact of regional (China, Japan, South Korea) and global forces (the United States and Russia) on domestic politics and regime legitimacy. We will also explore religions and cultural patterns that influence society and politics. This will be an exciting course!

Required Readings

There are two required books for this course. We will use both and you will need to have both books in order to be successful in this course.

1. Comparative Politics of Southeast Asia: An Introduction to Governments and Political Regimes by Aurel Croissant and Philip Lorenz. ISBN-13 : 978-3031051135.
2. Teaching Barefoot in Burma by Robert Sterken. ISBN-13 : 978-0692777848.

Assessment of Student Learning

Assessment Project or Activity	Percentage of Course Grade
Examinations (3)	45%
Assignments: Short Response Notes (12)	30%
Book Review & Response (1)	15%
Attendance & Participation	10%

Examinations will be essays and short answers. They are untimed, and you may open them as often as you need. Late exams will be docked one complete letter grade.

Chapter Reading Notes: You must read each assigned chapter of the textbook and complete the writing assignment in Canvas. Late assignments will be docked one complete letter grade. These notes should be between 300 and 500 words.

Book Review & Response: You must read Teaching Barefoot in Burma and complete the writing assignment in Canvas. Late assignments will be docked one complete letter grade. This response/review should be about 800 to 1000 words.

Method of Instruction & Learning

This is an upper-level discussion-based course! Students are expected to complete readings and assignments before class meetings and to discuss major themes and topics during class. This is not a lecture course. I will not be on the stage (very often). I expect respectful, organic, and flexible class discussions. This robust course will emphasize learning and conceptual gain through guided peer-to-peer dialogue.

You will need to take notes! The exams will be drawn from our in-class discussions, readings, assignments, and in-class videos!

Come to class prepared, participate, complete the readings and assignments, and take examinations 1, 2, and 3 in Canvas.

[Student Resources](#)

[University Policies and Information](#)