

Draft as of Oct 1st
Singapore and Thailand (Bangkok and Phuket)

SYLLABUS 2008

ITRN 702 Southeast Asia Study Abroad Program

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Overview:

Asia houses the world's largest population and some of the fastest growing economies in the world. While much has been said and written on China and India, one cannot ignore the dynamic Southeast Asian sub-region. This region consists of eleven countries that are geographically south of China and east of India -- Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The SPP Southeast Asia Study Abroad program focuses on two of the more developed Southeast Asian countries: Singapore and Thailand. Both are highly open economies, which have been very successful in developing and growing rapidly by attracting large-scale foreign direct inflows and becoming significant global exporters in electronics and other areas. Both countries are also major tourist destinations. Both countries also experienced sharp slowdown following the regional financial crisis of 1997-98 but have recovered since then and regained their economic vibrancy. The focus of this program will be to understand the trade and development experiences, paying attention to the key economic and political economy policy challenges facing these two countries and the larger Southeast Asian region in the 21st century. Unlike a conventional course taken in the classroom, this course will expose students to the sights, smells, and sounds of the countries themselves. Students will hear presentations by leading regional academics and experts, and visit universities, think tanks, enterprises, and cultural landmarks. The course will be an intense learning experience, with constant interaction among the students, GMU course director, and course lecturers and other participants.

Key Topics:

Politics and governance: Military and politics; Terrorism; System of government; Role of entrepreneurship; Tackling corruption; Religion and society; The role of the state in economic development; The role of values in economic development; The impact of globalization; Foreign direct investment and trade; The tourism sector; Impact of rise of China and India; Growth strategies for small and open economies; Environmental issues; International relations; Openness, media and the Internet; Operating in a multi-cultural environment, Local and Trans-boundary environmental issues; Issues relating to education; Demographic transition.

Readings¹

Singapore:

Dent, C.M., *The Foreign Economic Policies of Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan*, Edward Elgar, 2002.

Lee, K.Y., *From Third World to First: The Singapore Story, 1965-2000*, HarperCollins, 2000.

Mauzy, D.K. and R.S. Milne, *Singapore Politics Under the People's Action Party*, Routledge, 2002.

Neo, B.S. and G. Chen, *Dynamic Governance: Embedding Culture, Capabilities and Change in Singapore*, Select Book, 2007.

Peebles, G. and P. Wilson, *Economic Growth and Development in Singapore: Past and Future*, Edward Elgar, 2002.

Trocki, C.A., *Singapore: Wealth, Power and the Culture of Control*. London: Routledge, 2006.

Vasil, R., *Governing Singapore: A History of National Development and Democracy*. Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 2000.

Thailand:

Dixon, C.J., *The Thai Economy: Uneven Development and Internationalisation*, Routledge, 1999.

Hindley, P.M., *The King Never Smiles: A Biography of Thailand's Bhumibol Adulyadej*, Yale University Press, 2006.

Pasuk, P. and C. Baker. *Thailand: Economy and Politics*, 2nd edition. Oxford University Press, 2002.

Pasuk, P. and C. Baker, *Thaksin: The Business of Politics in Thailand*, Silk Worm Books, 2005.

Terwiel, B.J., *Thailand's Political History: From the Fall of Ayutthaya to Recent Times*, River Books, 2006.

Mulder, N. *Inside Thai Society: Interpretations of Everyday Life*, Pepin Press, 1997.

¹ Papers as background reading will be distributed later in the semester (November).

Assessment:

Students will be graded as follows:

Class participation: 15%

One Book review (1,500 words absolute maximum): 15%.

Two short essays: "Impressions of Singapore" and "Impressions of Thailand" (2,000 words absolute maximum): 15% each.

A Research paper on a topic chosen with the approval of Prof. Rajan (5000 words absolute maximum): 40%

The deadline for the book review is are January 6. Please bring a hard copy with you to Singapore to turn in at orientation.

The deadline for both the Impressions essays is January 30th.

The deadline for the Research paper is April 1st.