

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Asian and International Studies
with effect from Semester A 2021/22**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Authoritarian Resilience and Democratic Change in East Asia

Course Code: AIS5032

Course Duration: One semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course develops research questions about democracy, dictatorship, and everything in-between. It uses the post-1945 experiences of Northeast and Southeast Asia's varied political systems to address important theoretical debates in political science and developmental studies. It seeks to understand why, over the past decades, East Asia has seen the rise, demise and return of authoritarian modes of governance, in parallel with the emergence of multifaceted processes of political liberalisation. It examines the various challenges of democratic transition and consolidation in the region, but also democratic regression and illiberal politics, the developmental state and modernization theory, military intervention in politics, political contention, party systems, elites and dynasticism, international democracy promotion and their impact on authoritarian rule and democratic change. How can we make sense of East Asia's highly diverse political institutions, regime formation and durability, historical legacies and cultural dynamics, and what can we learn from the region? The course will be structured thematically so that students will be able to study East Asia comparatively while making connections with the broader fields of comparative politics.

Course Aims:

The course seeks to enable students to analyse the causes and consequences of the resilience and challenges of non-liberal political regimes in East Asia while relating historical developments and contemporary dynamics in the region to social science theories about comparative democratization, regime change and authoritarian rule. By exposing students to a variety of empirical studies on Northeast and Southeast Asia's political contexts and institutional systems, as well as cutting-edge theoretical debates on key topics in the region, the course will help them construe why certain countries are democratic, and others are not. By the end of the course, students will be ready to develop ideas and formulate their own research questions about democracy, authoritarianism, and everything in-between in the region – and beyond.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Understand and apply social theories of regime change and continuity in East Asia	20%	√	√	
2.	Reflect critically on key concepts of political science, such as power, elites, democracy, authoritarianism, elections, modernization and contentious politics under different institutional settings	20%	√	√	
3.	Examine and evaluate processes of political change, democratization and democratic regression	30%	√	√	
4.	Identify, design and construct models of resilient political institutions	10%	√	√	√
5.	Apply multi-disciplinary critical thinking skills to solve research problems, consider new approaches, and demonstrate the ability to accomplish innovation	20%	√	√	√
		100%			

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.						Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	5		
1.	Lectures, readings and debates	√	√	√		√		
2.	Presentations in class	√	√	√	√	√		
3.	Critical book review	√	√	√		√		
4.	Written opinion piece (term paper)	√	√	√	√	√		
5.	Final in-class examination	√	√	√		√		

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.						Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4	5			
Continuous Assessment: 100 %								
Class participation, skill exercises	√	√	√	√	√		10%	Weekly
Presentation (teamwork/individual)	√	√	√	√	√		20%	Weekly (once per student)
Book review (c. 1,500 words)	√	√	√		√		20%	Week 5
Position paper (c. 3,000 words)	√	√	√	√	√		30%	Week 10
Final desk test	√	√	√	√	√		20%	Week 13 (questions directly related to the weekly required readings in the form of mini-essays to be completed in 2 hours)
Examination: Nil (duration: N/A, if applicable)								
							100%	

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Attendance and participation in debates and exercises, including online	Quality of contribution to class discussions and intervention	Continuous contributions to classroom discussions and interventions that show a high level of analysis	Frequent contributions to classroom discussions and interventions with a good analysis level	Infrequent contributions to classroom discussions but which reveal attempts at analysis	Few contributions to classroom discussions and contributions that show little analytical insight	No contributions to classroom discussions and repeated absence
2. Presentation in class	Quality of argument, structure of class presentation Cohesiveness of overall presentation oral delivery visual aids Evidence of research	Excellently structured, supporting an analytical argument backed by excellent research and answering set topic or question, clear speech, excellent use of powerpoint or similar tools	A good structure at least partially supporting an analytical argument, backed by good research answering set topic or question, clear speech, good use of powerpoint or similar tools	Adequate structure, to some extent supporting an analytical argument backed by some research, providing some answers to a set topic or question, adequate speech and use of powerpoint	Limited structure that provides little support to analytical argument backed by little research providing few answers to a set topic or question, unadequate speech or use of powerpoint	No recognizable structure without any analytical argument backed by no discernible research, providing no answers to a set topic or question, poor speech and use of powerpoint or similar tools
3. Book Review <i>and</i> 4. Position Paper	Quality and structure of evidence-based argument and clarity of position taken	Excellent analytical argument; excellent use of current events, and theories/models, and a well-argued position with a clear structure, extensive and high-quality research incorporated into text, few grammatical mistakes	Good analytical argument, good use of events and theories/models, clear structure, good range and quality of materials incorporated into text, limited spelling or grammatical mistakes	Mostly descriptive argument, some use of events and theories/models, problematic structure, limited range and quality of materials incorporated into text, spelling or grammatical mistakes do not hinder comprehension	Descriptive argument, minimal or no use of contemporary events and theories/models, unclear structure, limited range and low quality of research materials incorporated into text, spelling or grammatical mistakes, some evidence of plagiarised text	No argument, no use of contemporary events and theories/models, unclear structure, minimal range and quality of research materials incorporated into text, frequent grammatical mistakes, substantial evidence of plagiarised text

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Northeast Asia; Southeast Asia; Democracy; Democratization; Democratic Backsliding; Illiberalism; Modernization Theory; Authoritarianism; Authoritarian Durability; Personal Rule; Military Intervention; Sultanistic Regime; Hybrid Regime; State Formation; Developmental State; Elites; Elections; Electoral Authoritarianism; Party Systems and Political Parties; Dynastic Politics; Political Family; Parliaments; Political Culture; Asian Values; Ethnicity; Identity; Religion; Civil Society; Middle Class; Contentious Politics; Human Rights.

Weekly schedule

Week 1 – Overview. Varieties of Political Regimes in East Asia

The first session introduces some of the main research questions to be discussed and clarifies the assignments and responsibilities of the students. Among the topics to be discussed: how can we explain democratic change and authoritarian continuities in the region? Is there a distinctive process of democratization in East Asia? Are hybrid regimes the future?

Required readings

- Thompson, Mark R., 2015. “Democracy with Asian Characteristics”, *The Journal of Asian Studies* 74(4): 875-887.

Further readings

- Slater, Dan, 2008. “Democracies and Dictatorships Do Not Float Freely: Structural Sources of Political Regimes in Southeast Asia,” in Erik M. Kuhonta, Dan Slater, and Tuong Vu, eds., *Southeast Asia in Political Science: Theory, Region, and Qualitative Analysis*, Stanford CA: Stanford University Press, pp. 55-79.
- Case, William, 2015. “Democracy’s Mixed Fortunes in Southeast Asia: Torpor, Change and Trade-Offs”, in William Case, ed., *The Routledge Handbook of Southeast Asian Democratization*, London: Routledge, pp. 3-23.
- Chang, Yu-tzung, Yun-han Chu and Chong-Min Park, 2007. “Authoritarian Nostalgia in Asia”, *Journal of Democracy* 18(3): 66-80.

Week 2 – State-Making and Historical Legacies

The session examines East Asia as a region with common themes such as “cultures”, historical legacies, class formation and state-building. How did colonial rule influence (or not) contemporary East Asian states? What are the historical sources of state-making, authoritarianism, democracy and regime legitimacy in the region? How much have cultural features affected political institutions and developments?

Required readings

- Sidel, John T., 2008. “Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy Revisited: Colonial State and Chinese Immigrant in the Making of Modern Southeast Asia”, *Comparative Politics* 40(2): 127-147.

Further readings

- Thompson, Mark R., 2019. *Authoritarian Modernism in East Asia*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan [Introduction pp. 1-17].
- Boyd, Richard and Tak-Wing Ngo, 2006. “Reconnecting the State to the Dynamics of its Making”, in Boyd, R. & T.-W. Ngo, eds., *State Making in Asia*, Abingdon: Routledge, pp. 1-30.
- Ball, Philip, 2017. *Water Kingdom: A Secret History of China*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Kim, Sungmoon, 2014. *Confucian Democracy in East Asia: Theory and Practice*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press [Introduction “Toward Confucian Democratic Theory”, pp. 1-24].
- Bertrand, Jacques. 2013. *Political Change in Southeast Asia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press [Chapter 1 “Understanding Political Change in Southeast Asia”, pp. 1-29].
- Pye, Lucian W., 2000. “‘Asian Values’: From Dynamos to Dominoes?”, in Lawrence E. Harrison and Samuel P. Huntington, *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress*, New York: Basic Books, pp. 244-255.
- Sen, Amartya, 1997. *Human Rights and Asian Values [The Sixteenth Morgenthau Memorial Lecture on Ethics and Foreign Policy]*, New York: Carnegie Council on Ethic and International Affairs.

Week 3 – Authoritarianism and the Developmental State

This lecture interrogates the relationship between state-led economic development and authoritarianism in post-war East Asia. What are the main features of the developmental state approach? Is capitalism possible without democracy? How did the developmental model approach evolve after the 1997 Asian financial crisis?

Required readings

- Carroll, Toby and Darryl S. L. Jarvis, eds., 2017. *Asia after the Developmental State: Disembedding Autonomy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press [Chapter 1 ‘Disembedding Autonomy: Asia after the Developmental State’, pp. 3-37].

Further readings

- Johnson, Chalmers, 1999. “Odyssey of a Concept”, in M. Woo-Cumings, ed., *The Developmental State*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, pp. 32-60.
- Doner, Richard F., Bryan K. Ritchie and Dan Slater, 2005. “Systemic Vulnerability and the Origins of Developmental States: Northeast and Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspective”, *International Organization* 59(2): 327-361.
- George, Cherian, 2000. *Singapore: The Air-Conditioned Nation: Essays on the Politics of Comfort and Control, 1980-2000*, Singapore: Landmark.
- Suh, C.-S and S.-H. Kwun, 2014. “Whither the Developmental State in South Korea? Balancing Welfare and Neoliberalism”, *Asian Studies Review* 38(4): 676-692.
- Stubbs, Richard, 2009. “What Ever Happened to the East Asian Developmental State? The Unfolding Debate”, *The Pacific Review* 22(1): 1-22.
- Wong, Joseph, 2004. “The Adaptive Developmental State in East Asia”, *Journal of East Asian Studies* 4: 345-362.

Week 4 – The Military and Politics

During this session we will discuss the role and influence of armed forces in East Asian politics. Why have military institutions proved key political actors in the post-war context? What role does the military play in the (un)making of authoritarian regimes? What forms does military intervention take in the region? How to define stable civil-military relations? Is democratic, civilian control of the armed forces possible in East Asia?

Required readings

- Mietzner, Marcus, 2013. “Conflict and Leadership: The Resurgent Political Role of the Military in Southeast Asia”, in Marcus Mietzner, ed., *The Political Resurgence of the Military in Southeast Asia: Conflict and Leadership*. London: Routledge, pp. 1-23.

Further readings

- Alagappa, Muthiah, 2001. “Investigating and Explaining Change: An Analytical Framework”, in Muthiah Alagappa, ed., *Coercion and Government: The Declining Role of the Military in Asia*, Stanford CA: Stanford University Press, pp. 29-67.
- Kuehn, David, 2017. “Midwives or Gravediggers of Democracy? The Military’s Impact on Democratic Development”, *Democratization* 24(5): 783-800.
- Croissant, Aurel and David Kuehn, 2009. “Patterns of Civil Control of the Military in East Asia’s New Democracies”, *Journal of East Asian Studies* 9(2): 187-217.
- Egretreau, Renaud, 2016. *Caretaking Democratization: The Military and Political Change in Myanmar*, New York: Oxford University Press.
- Selth, Andrew, 2018. “All According to Plan? The Armed Forces and Government in Myanmar”, *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 40(1): 1-26.
- Barany, Zoltan, 2012. *The Soldier and the Changing State: Building Democratic Armies in Africa, Asia, and the Americas*, Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Ledberg, Sofia K., 2018. “Analysing Chinese Civil-Military Relations: A Bottom-Up Approach”, *The China Quarterly* 234(2): 377-398.
- Chambers, Paul W. and Napisa Waitookiat, eds., 2017. *Khaki Capital: The Political Economy of the Military in Southeast Asia*, Copenhagen: NIAS Press.

Week 5 – Modernization Theory and its Critics

This lecture questions whether East Asia fit into popular theories about democratic transition and the classic relationship between economic liberalisation and democratization. What types of challenges does the region present for modernization theory? Have middle classes in East Asia proved significant actors of democratization, or rather partisans of authoritarian stability, if not illiberalism?

Required readings

- Nathan, Andrew, 2016, “The Puzzle of the Chinese Middle Class”, *Journal of Democracy* 27(2): 5-19.
- Thompson, Mark R. 2010. “Modernization Theory’s Last Redoubt: Modernization and Democratization in East and Southeast Asia,” in Yin-Wah Chu, ed., *East Asian Democracies after Twenty Years*, London: Routledge, pp. 85-101.

Further readings

- Lipset, Seymour M., 1959. “Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy”, *American Political Science Review* 53(1): 69-105.
- Wong, Joseph, 2013. “From Developmental States to Welfare States”, in Larry Diamond, Mark F. Plattner and Chu, Yun-han, eds., *Democracy in East Asia: A New Century*, Baltimore, MA: The Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 31-47.
- Sinpeng, Aim and Aries A. Arugay, 2015. “The Middle Class and Democracy in Southeast Asia”, in William Case, ed., *The Routledge Handbook of Southeast Asian Democratization*, London: Routledge, pp. 102-116.
- Fukuyama, Francis, 2013. “The Patterns of History”, in Larry Diamond, Mark F. Plattner and Chu, Yun-han, eds., *Democracy in East Asia: A New Century*, Baltimore, MA: The Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 3-15.
- Chen, Jie and Chunlong Lu, 2011. “Democratization and the Middle Class in China: The Middle Class’s Attitudes towards Democracy”, *Political Research Quarterly* 64(3): 705-719.
- Jones, David Martin, 1998. “Democratization, Civil Society, and Illiberal Middle-Class Culture in Pacific Asia”, *Comparative Politics* 30(2): 147-169.
- Reilly, Ben, 2016. “An Elephant’s Graveyard: Democracy and Development in East Asia”, *Government and Opposition* 52(1): 162-183.

Week 6 – Protest and Revolt against Authoritarianism

Students will engage today with the diversity of citizens’ response to authoritarian rule in the region. How did violent revolutions and *People’s Power* movements emerge in East Asia? How did regimes respond to political, and sometimes lethal, contention? Have popular protests and contentious politics made democracy progress in the region?

Required readings

- Stent, Dylan, 2019. “A Century of Contention in South Korea: The Evolution of Contentious Politics against Political Elites”, *Asian Survey* 59(5): 889-910.

Further readings

- Boudreau, Vince, 2004. *Resisting Dictatorship: Repression and Protest in Southeast Asia*, New York: Cambridge University Press [Chapter 2 “Protest, Repression & Transition in SEA”, pp. 17-36].
- Rowen, Ian, 2015. “Inside Taiwan’s Sunflower Movement: Twenty-Four Days in a Student-Occupied Parliament, and the Future of the Region”, *The Journal of Asian Studies* 74(1): 5-21.
- Kyaw Yin Hlaing, 2008. “Challenging the Authoritarian State: Buddhist Monk and Peaceful Protests in Burma”, *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs* 32(1): 125-144.
- Fukuoka, Yuki, 2015. “Who Brought Down the Dictator? A Critical Reassessment of So-Called ‘People Power’ Revolutions in the Philippines and Indonesia”, *The Pacific Review* 28(3): 411-433.
- Slater, Dan, 2009. “Revolutions, Crackdowns, and Quiescence: Communal Elites and Democratic Mobilization in Southeast Asia”, *American Journal of Sociology* 115(1): 203-254.
- Veg, Sebastian, 2015. “Legalistic and Utopian: Hong Kong’s Umbrella Movement”, *New Left Review* 92: 55-73.
- Kim, Quee-Young, 1996. “From Protest to Change of Regime: The 4-19 Revolt and the Fall of the Rhee Regime in South Korea”, *Social Forces* 74(4): 1179-1208.
- Weiss, Meredith L. and Edward Aspinnall, eds., 2012. *Student Activism in Asia: Between Protest and Powerlessness*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Week 7 – Elections, Legislatures and Party Systems

This session discusses the role of (seemingly) democratic institutions in fostering democratization or sustaining authoritarian rule. Can legislatures and regular elections undermine democracy? What is the impact of the party systems over the nature of a political regime? Why are single-party authoritarian regimes so durable?

Required readings

- Tan, Netina and Bernard Grofman, 2018. “Electoral Rules and Manufacturing Legislative Supermajority: Evidence from Singapore”, *Commonwealth and Comparative Studies* 56(3): 273-297.

Further readings

- Morgenbesser, Lee, 2016. *Behind the Façade: Elections under Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia*, Albany NY: SUNY Press.
- Morgenbesser, Lee & Thomas B. Pepinsky, 2019. “Elections as Causes of Democratization: Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspective”, *Comparative Political Studies* 52(1): 3-35.
- Hicken, Allan, 2008. “Developing Democracies in Southeast Asia: Theorizing the Role of Parties and Elections,” in Erik M. Kuhonta, Dan Slater, and Tuong Vu, eds., *Southeast Asia in Political Science: Theory, Region, and Qualitative Analysis*, Stanford CA: Stanford University Press, pp. 80-101.
- Slater, Dan and Joseph Wong, 2013. “The Strength to Concede: Ruling Parties and Democratization in Developmental Asia”, *Perspectives on Politics* 11(3): 717-733.
- Brown, Kerry, 2011. *Ballot Box China: Grassroots Democracy in the Final Major One-Party State*, London: Zed Books.
- Pepinsky, Tom, 2014. “The Institutional Turn in Comparative Authoritarianism”, *British Journal of Political Science* 44(3): 631-653.
- Hicken, Allan and Eric M. Kuhonta, eds., 2015. *Party System Institutionalization in Asia: Democracies, Autocracies and the Shadows of the Past*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Ma, Ngok, 2018. “Party Underdevelopment in Hong Kong: Hybrid Constraints and Value Changes”, *Asian Survey* 58(3): 416-438.
- Egretreau, Renaud, 2019. “Towards Legislative Institutionalisation? Emerging Patterns of Routinisation in Myanmar’s Parliament”, *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs* 38(3): 265-285.

Week 8 – Elites and Dynastic Politics

Students will critically reflect on the role of elites in processes of democratization and the resilience of authoritarian rule. Why do East Asian societies tend to be dominated by oligarchies, and what does it mean for political developments in the region? Are dynastic politics and the dominance of political families anti-democratic?

Required readings

- Purdey, Jemma, 2016. “Political Families in SEA”, *South East Asia Research* 24(3): 319-327.

Further readings

- Gainsborough, Martin, 2012. “Elites vs. Reform in Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam”, *Journal of Democracy* 23(2): 35-46.
- Fukuoka, Yuki, 2015. “Demystifying ‘People Power’: An Elite Interpretation of ‘Democratization’ in Southeast Asia”, in William Case, ed., *The Routledge Handbook of Southeast Asian Democratization*, London: Routledge, 85-101.
- Teehankee, Julio C., 2001. “Emerging Dynasties in the Post-Marcos House of Representatives”, *Philippine Political Science Journal* 22(45): 55-78.
- Schmitter, Philippe C., 2018. “The Role of Elites in Democratization”, *Journal of Chinese Political Science* 23: 33-46.
- Selth, Andrew, 2017. *Aung San Suu Kyi and the Politics of Personality*, Brisbane: Griffith Asia Institute Regional Outlook Paper No. 55.
- Derichs, Claudia and Mark R. Thompson, eds., 2013. *Dynasties and Female Political Leaders in Asia: Gender, Power and Pedigree*, Berlin: LIT-Verlag.
- Taniguchi, N., 2008. “Diet Members and Seat Inheritance: Keeping it in the Family”, in Sherry L. Martin and Gill Steel, eds., *Democratic Reform in Japan: Assessing the Impact*, Boulder CO, Lynne Rienner, pp. 65-80.
- Smith, Daniel, 2020. *Dynasties and Democracy: The Inherited Incumbency Advantage in Japan*, Stanford CA: Stanford University Press.

Week 9 – Democratization in Divided Societies

The session investigates the multiple impacts of ethnic fragmentation and religious tensions on East Asia’s political systems. How do divided societies protect (or subdue) minorities under different political regimes? Can, and does, democratization prevent ethnic and religious conflict? What role does Islam and Buddhism play in the region’s politics? Can pluralism be managed solely through constitutionalism and the rule of law?

Required readings

- Sadan, Mandy, 2016. "Can Democracy Cure Myanmar's Ethnic Conflict?" *Current History* 115(782): 214-219.

Further readings

- Snyder, Jack, 2008. "Problems of Democratic Transition in Divided Societies", in Nardulli, Peter, ed., *Domestic Perspectives on Contemporary Democracy*, Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, pp. 11-32.
- Lijphart, Arend, 2004. "Constitutional Design for Divided Societies", *Journal of Democracy* 15(2): 96-109.
- Hamayotsu, Kikue, 2008. "Beyond Doctrine and Dogma: Religion and Politics in Southeast Asia," in Erik M. Kuhonta, Dan Slater, and Tuong Vu, eds., *Southeast Asia in Political Science: Theory, Region, and Qualitative Analysis*, Stanford CA: Stanford University Press, pp. 171-198.
- Hefner, Robert W., 2001. "Introduction: Multiculturalism and Citizenship in Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia", in Robert W. Hefner, ed., *The Politics of Multiculturalism: Pluralism and Citizenship in Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia*, Honolulu HI: University of Hawaii Press, pp. 1-58.
- Horowitz, Donald L., 2014. "Ethnic Power Sharing: Three Big Problems", *Journal of Democracy* 25(2): 5-20.
- Helfner, Robert W., 2000. *Civil Islam: Muslims and Democratization in Indonesia*, Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Brown, Michael E. and Sumit Ganguly, eds., 2003. *Fighting Words: Language Policy and Ethnic Relations in Asia*, Cambridge MA: The MIT Press.
- Walton, Matthew J., 2013. "The 'Wages of Burman-ness': Ethnicity and Burman Privilege in Contemporary Myanmar", *Journal of Contemporary Asia* 43(1): 1-27.

Week 10 – Democratic Backsliding and Illiberal Regimes

The lecture explores some emerging patterns of democratic decline in East Asia and interrogates the rise of illiberal, hybrid regimes in the region. It addresses the causes, symptoms and implications of the different modes of democratic backsliding. What East Asian countries have suffered notable democratic recessions within the past decade? Are illiberalism and illiberal politics becoming the dominant paradigm in the region?

Required readings

- Warburton, Eve and Edward Aspinall, 2019. "Explaining Indonesia's Democratic Regression: Structure, Agency and Popular Opinion", *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 41(2): 255-285.

Further readings

- Bermeo, Nancy, 2018. "On Democratic Backsliding", *Journal of Democracy* 27(1): 5-19.
- Barany, Zoltan, 2018. "Where Myanmar Went Wrong: From Democratic Awakening to Ethnic Cleansing", *Foreign Affairs* 97(2): 141-154.
- Morgenbesser, Lee, 2017. "The Failure of Democratisation by Elections in Cambodia", *Contemporary Politics* 23(2): 135-155.
- Bell, Daniel A., David Brown, Kanishka Jayasuriya and David Martin Jones, eds., 1995. *Towards Illiberal Democracy in Pacific Asia*, Basingstoke: Plagrave Macmillan.
- Kuhonta, Eric M. and Aim Sinpeng, 2014. "Democratic Regression in Thailand: The Ambivalent Role of Civil Society and Political Institutions", *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 36(3): 333-355.
- Un, Kheang, 2019. *Cambodia: Return to Authoritarianism*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Shin, Gi-Wook, 2020. "South Korea's Democratic Decay", *Journal of Democracy* 31(3): 100-114.
- Cheesman, Nick, 2014. "What Does the Rule of Law Have to Do with Democratization (in Myanmar)?", *South East Asia Research* 22(2): 213-232.
- Mérieau, Eugénie, 2016. "Thailand's Deep State, Royal Power and the Constitutional Court (1997-2015)", *Journal of Contemporary Asia* 46(3): 445-466.
- Chaloeintiarana, Thak, 2007. *Thailand: The Politics of Despotism Paternalism*, Chiang Mai: Silkworm.

Week 11 – Resilient Dictators

Why do some dictatorships appear to be so durable in East Asia, especially communist North Korea and sultanistic Brunei? What are the economic factors that strengthen (and can potentially weaken) these regimes? What types of political institutions, economic policies and instruments make them more or less resilient?

Required readings

- Dukalskis, Alexander & Hyung-Min Joo, 2021. "Everyday Authoritarianism in North Korea", *Europe-Asia Studies* 73(2): 364-386.

Further readings

- Mukoyama, Naosuke, 2020. "Colonial Origins of the Resource Curse: Endogenous Sovereignty and Authoritarianism in Brunei", *Democratization* 27(2): 224-242.
- Byman, Daniel and Jennifer Lind, 2010. "Pyongyang's Survival Strategy: Tools of Authoritarian Control in North Korea", *International Security* 35(1): 44-74.
- Dukalskis, Alexander, 2017. *The Authoritarian Public Sphere: Legitimation and Autocratic Power in North Korea, Burma, and China*, Abingdon: Routledge.
- King, Gary, Jennifer Pan and Margaret E. Roberts, 2013. "How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression", *American Political Science Review*, 107(2): 326-343.
- Blake, David J. H., 2019. "Recalling Hydraulic Despotism: Hun Sen's Cambodia and the Return of Strict Authoritarianism", *Austrian Journal of South-East Asian Studies* 12(1): 69-89.
- Gandhi, Jennifer, 2008. *Political Institutions under Dictatorship*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- De Vienne, Marie-Sybille, 2015. *Brunei: From the Age of Commerce to the 21st Century*, Singapore: NUS Press.
- Dikotter, Frank, 2019. *How to be a Dictator: The Cult of Personality in the Twentieth Century*, London: Bloomsbury.

Week 12 – International and Regional Perspectives

The class will engage with the role of external factors in democratization processes and the maintenance of authoritarianism in the region. How influential are (Western-inspired) international norms and liberal-democratic principles? What are the prospects for an East Asian community and its impact on democratization and human rights protection? Is there a role for ASEAN in shaping the domestic politics of its ten member-states?

Required readings

- Sung Yong Lee & Wook Beom Park, 2020. "The Dual Track of Democracy Promotion in Post-War Peacebuilding in Cambodia: The Gap between Institutional Development and Civil Society Mobilisation", *Peacebuilding* 8(1): 78-97.

Further readings

- Beeson, Mark and Kelly Gerard, 2015. "ASEAN, Regionalism and Democracy", in William Case, ed., *The Routledge Handbook of Southeast Asian Democratization*, London: Routledge, pp. 54-67.
- Wolman, Andrew, 2013. "National Human Rights Commissions and Asian Human Rights Norms", *Asian Journal of International Law* 3(1): 77-99.
- Acharya, Amitav, 2003. "Democratization and the Prospects for Participatory Regionalism in Southeast Asia", *Third World Quarterly* 24(2): 375-390.
- Manea, Maria-Gabriela, 2009. "How and Why Interaction Matters: ASEAN's Regional Identity and Human Rights", *Cooperation and Conflict* 44(1): 27-49.
- Baik, Tae-Ung, 2012. *Emerging Regional Human Rights Systems in Asia*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Davies, Matthew, 2014. "An Agreement to Disagree: The ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and the Absence of Regional Identity in Southeast Asia," *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs* 33(3): 107-129.
- Smith, Tony. 2012. *America's Mission: The United States and the Worldwide Struggle for Democracy*, Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press [Chapter 2 "Democracy in the Philippines, pp. 37-59 and Chapter 6 "Democratizing Japan and Germany", pp. 146-174]

Week 13 – Wrap-up Session

In conclusion, students will debate whether liberal democracy is the best answer to East Asia's social and political problems. Two hours will also be devoted to a final test directly related to the required readings of the past 12 weeks.

Suggested readings

- Galston, William A., 2020. "The Enduring Vulnerability of Liberal Democracy", *Journal of Democracy* 31(3): 8-24.
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