



**SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE
AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME
TRIMESTER 1, 2008**

**POLS 208 / INTP 208: POLITICAL CHANGE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
CRN 1289 / 15289**

LECTURER: Professor Stephen Levine
ROOM: Murphy Room 534 (MY534)
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LECTURE TIMES: Mondays and Fridays, 1.10 – 2.00
VENUE: Hugh Mackenzie Lecture Theatre 001 (HM LT001)

TUTORIALS: Tutorial allocations will be arranged *in the first week* of the trimester and tutorials will begin *during the second week*. Each student will be allocated to one tutorial group. Attendance is not taken at tutorials (or lectures) but is expected.

TUTORIAL TIMES: Tuesdays, 3.10- 4.00 (22 Kelburn Parade, room 104) *or* Tuesdays, 4.10 – 5.00 (CO 340)

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, 3.00-4.00; Tuesday, 2.00 – 3.00 – and by appointment (email).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Information about any changes to the timetable or programme will be announced in lectures and posted on the Political Science notice board, 5th floor, Murphy Building.

COURSE CONTENT:

This course will examine constitutional issues and broader political change in a number of Southeast Asian states. Students have the opportunity to gain a better understanding of political institutions and wider political trends in countries with very diverse systems of government, including Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Burma, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, for each of the Southeast Asian countries covered by the course, students should have a good understanding of: the historical background to contemporary politics; the constitutional framework and political institutions; and the political parties and leading political personalities. Students

should also gain insights into aspects of regional cooperation in Southeast Asia. The course will also seek to identify New Zealand's interests in Southeast Asia and its relations with the various Southeast Asian countries covered by the course. Finally, by the end of the course students will be expected to have a good understanding of the contents of the two required texts (see 'course readings').

RELATIONSHIP TO ASSESSMENT:

The readings and lectures are designed to give students the opportunity to gain a basic understanding of the governments and political systems in the Southeast Asian countries covered by the course. The tutorials and essay assignments allow students to develop their understanding in their own way, based on discussion, critical analysis and independent research. The in-class tests will assess students' understanding of basic elements of Southeast Asian politics and comprehension of themes drawn from the two texts.

COURSE READINGS:

Essential texts:

Damien Kingsbury, *Southeast Asia: A Political Profile*, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, 2005.

Anthony L. Smith (ed.), *Southeast Asia and New Zealand – A History of Regional and Bilateral Relations*, Wellington: NZ Institute of International Affairs and Victoria University Press, 2005.

Textbooks can be purchased from Vicbooks located in the Student Union Building on Kelburn Campus. Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop the day after placing an order online. Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays) and 10.00 am – 1.00 pm Saturdays. Phone: 463 5515

Recommended:

Justin Wintle, *Perfect Hostage: A Life of Aung San Suu Kyi* – on 3-day loan in the VUW Library

ASSESSMENT:

The course will be assessed on the following basis:

- **two essays**, each of at least 1,500 words (maximum 2,500 words), will count for 60% of the overall grade. Each essay will be worth 30%.

The first essay involves selection by students of an article dealing with some aspect of Southeast Asian politics, published either in an academic journal or a scholarly book. The purpose of the first essay is to give students the opportunity to read a work of appropriate academic scholarship on a topic relevant to the course and to prepare a critique of that article. The critique will need to identify the purpose(s) of the article; any theoretical or conceptual material used in the article; the research method employed by the author; the kinds of evidence used by the author in developing their analysis; and the overall conclusions of the author. The essay will also give students the opportunity to consider other ways (if any) that the topic of the article or book chapter could have been investigated (and alternative conclusions that might have been reached). The purpose of this essay assignment is to give students the opportunity to learn more about Southeast Asian politics and, secondly, to assist students in developing critical analytical skills in relation to the scholarly literature in political science and international relations. Note: each article or book chapter must be approved by Professor Levine prior to the essay being submitted. A copy of the article or book chapter needs to be submitted with the essay. **Essays submitted on articles or book chapters that have not been approved will not be assessed.** Students are encouraged to consult Professor Levine about their choice of article or

book chapter; in any case students will be asked to indicate their choice by **Monday 10 March 2008**.

The first essay of **1,500 – 2,500 words** is worth **30%** of your overall grade and is due **5 pm, Friday 4 April**.

The second essay involves selection by students of a research topic on some aspect of Southeast Asian politics. A one-paragraph statement of the research topic – what it is about; why it is significant; why it is worth investigating – needs to be submitted in order for approval of the topic to be given. **Essays submitted on topics that have not been approved will not be assessed.** This essay is an opportunity for students to select their own topic, one of personal interest, and carry out independent and original research on it. The purpose of this essay assignment is to give students the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of some aspect of Southeast Asian politics; to give students greater experience in developing a brief research proposal; to give students greater experience in carrying out original research; and to provide students with greater experience in writing up their research findings. Students are encouraged to consult Professor Levine about their research paper topic; in any case students will be asked to indicate their choice of research paper topic, and to submit their one-paragraph statement, by **Monday 12 May 2008**.

The second essay of **1500 – 2,500 words** is worth **30%** of your overall grade and is due **5 pm, Friday 23 May**.

- **in-class test** (50 minutes) (20%). This test will be held at **1.00, Friday 11 April 2008**.
- **in-class test** (50 minutes) (20%). This test will be held at **1.00, Friday 30 May 2008**.

These tests will be composed of essay and/or short-answer questions. As noted above, the purpose of the in-class tests is to assess students' understanding of basic elements of Southeast Asian politics and comprehension of themes drawn from the two texts.

Essays must be submitted by the due date. Extensions will be granted only to those who meet the University's aegrotat rules (e.g. students with a medical certificate, a family bereavement, or critical personal circumstances beyond their control). Late essays must be handed directly either to Professor Levine or to a Political Science and International Relations Programme Administrator who will record on the essays the date and time received.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

To gain a pass in POLS 208 each student must submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work), and sit the two in-class tests.

PLEASE NOTE that **Friday 8 June 2008** is the FINAL DATE on which any written work can be accepted by the Programme, since this is the date on which we must determine whether students have met the course requirements. This means that the provision for late submission with a penalty does not apply beyond this date. Permission to submit work after 8 June must be sought in writing from the Head of Programme, and will only be granted for serious medical reasons (supported by medical certificate), or in case of serious personal crisis.

NB: A student who has obtained an overall mark of 50% or more, but failed to satisfy a mandatory requirement for a course, will receive a K grade for that course, while a course mark less than 50% will result in the appropriate fail grade (D, E or F).

PENALTIES:

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays—a deduction of 5% for the first day late, and 2% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 8 days. Work that is more than 8 days late can be accepted for for

mandatory course requirements but will not be marked. However, penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds, e.g., illness (presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary) or similar other contingencies. In such cases prior information will be necessary.

WORKLOAD:

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 15 hours per week to POLS 208. This includes two hours of lectures and one hour of tutorials per week.

AEGROTATS:

Please note that under the revised Examination Statute (Sections 6-10) students may now apply for an aegrotat pass in respect of any item of assessment falling within the last three weeks before the day on which lectures cease. In the case of **first** trimester courses in 2008 the starting point for this period is **Monday 12 May 2008**.

The following rules apply:

- where a student is not able to sit a test falling within these last three weeks because of illness or injury etc., an alternative test will be arranged where possible. If the student has completed in the view of the course supervisor, sufficient marked assessment relevant to the objectives of the course, an average mark may be offered. Where a student has an essay or other piece of assessment due in the last three weeks, and has a medical certificate or other appropriate documentation, the student will be given an extension.
- if none of the above is available to the student, e.g., if she/he has an ongoing illness, than an aegrotat will be considered. See Examination Statute 6-10 for a full explanation of the rules governing the provision of aegrotats in these circumstances.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM:

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were ones own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct. All cases will be recorded on a central database and severe penalties may be imposed. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES:

The University requires that certain information be communicated to students, either in the course outline or electronically (ref. Assessment Handbook 3.3). The current version of this information (adapted for FHSS courses) is below, and has also been saved as a separate document in the Common Folder (M:\Common\Course Administration\Course Outlines). This may be appended to your course outline without alteration.

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support