



GLOBAL SUMMER PROGRAMME 2022

GA002 CONTEMPORARY ASIA: POWER, DIVERSITY & CHANGE

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A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Home to around forty percent of the world's population, Asia is a region of extraordinary natural, cultural, economic, and socio-political diversity. It is characterised by both patterns of continuity across time and space, as well as far-reaching and rapid social and physical change. This course surveys a variety of contemporary trends and challenges found across Asia. By exploring weekly themes of urbanisation, transnational migration, civil society and social movements, religious politics, digital and mobile media, environmental degradation and climate change, heritage practices, economic development, geopolitics, as well as COVID-19's impact on the region, students will gain a deeper understanding of the complex dynamics of contemporary Asian societies. At some points in this course, we will approach 'Asia' with a wide lens, taking global, transnational, and regional perspectives, while at other times we will zoom in to particular experiences at the national or sub-national level. This is a survey course, and while students will be exposed to a wide range of issues relevant to contemporary Asia, they will also be encouraged to delve deeper into one or two select topics that are of particular interest to them.

B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and be conversant in issues of contemporary importance to diverse communities in Asia
- Critically analyse the overlapping forces that drive contemporary transitions and transformations in Asia
- Recognise and authoritatively speak to the complexity and diversity of contemporary Asian societies
- Develop research skills and critical thinking by collecting, reading and analysing data
- Express research findings and ideas coherently and logically in writing
- Express ideas and appraise the ideas of others orally through presentation, active participation and discussion in seminars

C. PRE-REQUISITES / REQUIREMENTS / MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE COURSES (IF ANY)

This course does not require any pre-requisite.

D. ASSESSMENT METHODS / GRADING DETAILS

<p>Class Participation You are expected to come to class having done the required readings and prepared to take an active role in group discussions. Each week after the lecture there will be an opportunity for interactive analysis of the lecture and the week's readings, including such activities as in-class debate, student-led discussions, and small-group work. Your class participation grade will be based on attendance plus performance in the above-mentioned activities. There will also be a chance to contribute to non-verbal and/or asynchronous activities e.g. on Padlets.</p>	20%
<p>Group work: student-led case studies Students will be divided into 8 groups and given an opportunity to select one of 8 pre-determined topics based on the course schedule below. On the appointed days, each group will present on their topic in a modified <i>Pecha Kucha</i> style (20 image-based slide limit, 6 min 40 sec total). After each presentation, the group has to facilitate a 20 minute interactive session with the rest of the class relevant to their topic. The aim is to make the learning experience interesting and engaging. You may use creative interactive techniques such as polls, role play, debates, games, etc. Assessment will be based on the organisation of the presentation, knowledge of the subject matter, clarity, articulation, teamwork, creativity, and engagement with the audience.</p>	20%
<p>Briefing paper Halfway through the course, students have to develop a short (max 1000 words) briefing paper for an Asian government official of their choice to help them prepare for a fictional meeting on one of the given topical issues. The paper must be limited to two pages. A sample brief will be given to students to help them prepare.</p>	25%
<p>Final essay Students will be given a selection of five essay topics to choose from at the start of the course that synthesise the themes covered in the course. Throughout the course, students will research and write an essay of 2500 words (+-10%) which will be graded according to a rubric provided. During the course, students will be guided on how best to approach the research and writing of their individual essays in an in-class workshop.</p>	35%
Total	100%

E. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All acts of academic dishonesty (including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, facilitation of acts of academic dishonesty by others, unauthorized possession of exam questions, or tampering with the academic work of other students) are serious offences.

All work (whether oral or written) submitted for purposes of assessment must be the student's own work. Penalties for violation of the policy range from zero marks for the component assessment to expulsion, depending on the nature of the offense.

When in doubt, students should consult the instructors of the course. Details on the SMU Code of Academic Integrity may be accessed at <http://www.smuscd.org/resources.html>.

F. ACCESSIBILITY

SMU strives to make learning experiences accessible for all. If students anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers due to disability, please let the instructor know immediately. Students are also welcomed to contact the university's disability services team if they have questions or concerns about academic provisions: included@smu.edu.sg.

Please be aware that the accessible tables in the seminar room should remain available for students who require them.

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND EXPECTATIONS

Classes are held as three-hour seminars, which usually involve an overview lecture, followed by interactive learning sessions facilitated by the instructor or fellow students. There are exceptions to this structure, such as when there are guest speakers invited to give a lecture or dialogue with the class, or group presentations scheduled, or field trips. Students will be given appropriate breaks between activities.

Prior to the start of each lesson, I will send an email outlining what's in store for the following lesson, as well as any preparation needed and tasks due. If relevant, general feedback from the previous lesson will also be included. Guiding questions and food for thought for that week will be provided, including latest news pertinent to the themes covered. Using this email as a guide to keep track, you are expected to do *all* required readings (and annotate them with your own notes) and other tasks prior to the seminar and should be prepared to discuss them both in lectures and in group work.

Please do not hesitate to ask any questions over Telegram or email if you have them. I will respond within 24 hours. Please email from your SMU account.

Because each class is participatory and interactive, attendance and punctuality are essential. Attendance will be taken at the start of the class. Absences and being more than 15 minutes late for class will affect your participation mark unless there is a valid excuse. Excused tardiness and absences are covered by a medical certificate or a letter from the Dean/relevant authority.

Late submission of assignments will be penalised. 5% of the total mark will be deducted per late day unless student has obtained a written approval for extension from the instructor with valid reason *prior* to the submission of deadline.

H. CLASSROOM POLICIES

- You should come prepared for the lecture and class discussions, both by doing the requisite readings, and, equally importantly, keeping yourselves up-to-date with relevant news about Asia today.
- As this is a Global Asia course, you are encouraged to include their own diverse perspectives about the topics on Asia addressed based on their own cultural and/or national background in class, no matter where you come from.
- There is a strict ten-point code of conduct that will be shared in the beginning of the course on our responsibility to create spaces, both online and offline, that are welcoming and respectful to everyone.
- Your attendance and active participation/listening will contribute greatly to your class participation marks. Importantly, don't just talk (especially over others), but also listen carefully to your instructor and classmates.
- Questions are always welcome. There are no stupid questions.

I. IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT DATES

1.	Pecha Kucha Groups 1 – 4	Lesson 6 8 July
2.	Briefing Paper Due	Lesson 7 12 July
3.	Pecha Kucha Groups 5 – 8	Lesson 12 22 July
4.	Final Essay Due	Lesson 12 22 July

J. CONSULTATIONS

The instructor will be available one hour after every class in the class venue for consultations. Book your consultations with your instructor by email or Telegram; it is compulsory to make an appointment.

K. RECOMMENDED TEXT / READING LIST / CASE STUDIES LIST

Please refer to the lesson plan. Note: guest speakers and field trips pending official confirmation.

LESSON PLAN		
LESSONS	TOPICS	RECOMMENDED TEXT / READING LIST / CASE STUDIES LIST
Lesson 1 Tuesday 28 June	Introduction and Global Asia: Geopolitics and the Changing Role of Asia in the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strangio, S. (2020). Pivot of the Indo-Pacific. In <i>In the dragon's shadow: Southeast Asia in the Chinese century</i>. Yale University Press, 10-37.
Lesson 2 Wednesday 29 June	Asia's Political Economies: Growth, Development, and Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carroll, T., & Jarvis, D. S. L. (2017). Disembedding autonomy: Asia after the developmental state. In T. Carroll & D. S. L. Jarvis (Eds.), <i>Asia after the developmental state: disembedding autonomy</i> (pp. 3-48.). Cambridge University Press.
Lesson 3 Friday 1 July	COVID-19 Policy and Practice in Asia GUEST SPEAKER: Assoc. Prof Jeremy Lim (Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ramraj, Victor V. and Arun K. Thiruvengadam. (2021). "Pandemics and Emergency Powers in Asia." In <i>Covid-19 in Asia: Law and Policy Contexts</i>, 133-146. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Lesson 4 Tuesday 5 July	Transnational Migration: Migrant Labour and Forced Migration in Asia GUEST SPEAKER: Dr Shona Loong (University of Zurich)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geddes, A. (2021). Southeast Asia: The 'temporariness' of migration. In <i>Governing migration beyond the state: Europe, North America, South America, and Southeast Asia in a global context</i>. Oxford University Press, 55-84.
Lesson 5 Wednesday 6 July	Asian Urbanisation FIELD TRIP: Singapore City Gallery tour*, Urban Redevelopment Authority Building (2 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Douglass, M. (2019). The rise of progressive cities for human and planetary flourishing: a global perspective on Asia's urban transition. In M. Douglass, R. Garbaye & K. C. Ho (Eds.), <i>The Rise of Progressive Cities East and West</i> (pp. 23-46). Springer.
Lesson 6 Friday 8 July	Pecha Kucha Presentations and Group-led Interactive Sessions (Groups 1 – 4)	
Lesson 7 Tuesday 12 July	Religion and Politics in Asia Final essay workshop BRIEFING PAPER DUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kelemen, B., & Turcsányi, R. Q. (2020). It's the politics, stupid: China's relations with Muslim countries on the background of Xinjiang crackdown. <i>Asian Ethnicity</i>, 21 (2), 223-243.

Lesson 8 Wednesday 13 July	Tangible and Intangible Heritage in Contemporary Asia FIELD TRIP: Pulau Ubin tour (Wei Tuo Fa Gong Temple and Chek Jawa) (3 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jamieson, W., & Engelhardt, R. (2018). Challenges in conserving and managing heritage in Asian urban areas. In <i>The planning and management of responsible urban heritage destinations in Asia: Dealing with Asian urbanisation and tourism forces</i>. Goodfellow Publishers, 9-28.
Lesson 9 Friday 15 July	Digital Asia: Social and Mobile Media GUEST SPEAKER: Dr Ross Tapsell (Senior Lecturer, Australian National University)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tapsell, R. (2021). Social media and elections in Southeast Asia: The emergence of subversive, underground campaigning. <i>Asian Studies Review</i>, 45 (1), 117-134.
Lesson 10 Tuesday 19 July	Civil Society and Social Movements in Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hansson, E., & Weiss, M. L. (2018). Conceptualizing political space and mobilization. In E. Hansson & M. L. Weiss (Eds.), <i>Political participation in Asia: Defining and deploying political space</i> (pp. 3-20). Routledge.
Lesson 11 Wednesday 20 July	Green Growth for a Green Asia: Environmental Degradation and Climate Change GUEST SPEAKER: Dr Jamie Wang (SEARC, City University of Hong Kong)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ghaleigh, N. S., & Burrows, L. (2021). Reset or revert in the new climate normal. In V. V. Ramraj (Ed.), <i>Covid-19 in Asia: Law and policy contexts</i> (pp. 425-444). Oxford University Press.
Lesson 12 Friday 22 July	Pecha Kucha Presentations and Group-led Interactive Sessions (Groups 5 – 8) FINAL ESSAY DUE	