

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code / Title : HA4068 Politics in Thailand

Pre-requisites : HA1001

No. of AUs. : 4

Contact Hours : 52

Course Aims

1. This course will discuss and investigate politics in Thailand using a comparative framework, through themes such as monarchy, military, constitutionalism, ethnic violence, civil society, religion, inter alia. Empirical cases will be delved into as well, in order to ground the module in real-world occurrences.
2. The course is intended for students with interests in the comparative politics of Southeast Asia who are seeking a deeper understanding of a major ASEAN nation that is much-visited by Singaporeans, but relatively little-studied in Singapore.
3. The course will be of particular value for those wishing to pursue careers in diplomacy, the security sector or other aspects of government service; as well as students interested in journalism and media, and those wishing to work with international organizations or companies operating in the Southeast Asian region.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify the major themes relevant to Thailand's politics.
2. Critique the contemporary debates on Thailand's political and public policy issues.
3. Locate Thailand's politics analytically within the broader field of comparative politics.
4. Examine the academic literature on Thai politics and critically assess it.
5. Debate on major political events and issues in Thailand and provide constructive suggestions on potential changes to the political system.

Course Content

1	Introduction: Thailand in flux
2	1932 and all that – the ambiguous legacy of absolute monarchy
3	Land of coups: understanding the role of the military
4	Constitutionalism and cultures of legalism
5	Street politics and protest movements
6	Political economy and the salience of monopolies
7	Urbanised villagers and political geographies
8	Electoral politics: changing terrains, changing voters
9	Party politics: from pragmatism to idealism
10	Violent conflict in the Deep South
11	The political role of media
12	Generational change and contestation
13	Future directions, scenarios and possibilities

Course Assessment

Class Participation	: 20%
Research Paper	: 40%
Policy Paper	: 20%
Book Review	: 20%
Total	----- 100%