

## **Southeast Asia in the Global Economy**

### **Syllabus**

Lectures: Monday 2:00-4.50 p.m. Room 1428  
Office Hours: Wednesday 2.00-5.00 p.m. at Robinson 1417  
Email: [krislert@ucsd.edu](mailto:krislert@ucsd.edu)

#### **Course Description**

This seminar course studies the interaction between Southeast Asian economies and the global economy in two aspects: (1) the roles of Southeast Asia in the global economy; and (2) how the global economy has affected the past and present economic development of the countries in this region. We will apply economic frameworks to study economic development, using the economies in this region as illustrated case studies.

#### **Learning Objectives**

After completing this course, students are expected to:

1. have broad knowledge about Southeast Asia and its relationship with the global economy;
2. be able to apply economic concepts to analyze real world issues;
3. be able to conceptualize and communicate academic ideas to general audience through data visualization, seminar discussion, oral presentation, and written research paper

#### **Course Organization and Requirements**

The learning method of this seminar course is centered around students.

##### **I. Term Paper**

###### **A. Format**

A term paper is the most important component of this course. The topics are open. You can write on whatever topics that interest you. However, the topics must be related to economic issues in Southeast Asia (defined broadly). The papers may focus on a specific country, a group of selected countries, or the whole region in general.

The main text of each paper must be *strictly* less than 20 pages (Time New Roman, 12 points, double space, and at least 1-inch margins). Tables, charts, pictures, and other supplementary information can be added to the appendix and do *not* count toward the page limit.

The paper must have an abstract, presented at the beginning. The abstract must summarize the main idea of the paper. In particular, the abstract must answer all of the following three questions: (1) what is

the research question of this paper? (2) what is the research method you use to answer that question? (3) what is the answer to that question? The abstract cannot exceed 150 words.

### B. Grading Criteria

The score for the paper is based on its originality and intellectual contents, not its length. Each paper is graded on the following criteria:

- i. Topic relevance and clear idea: You have to be clear about your *research question*, i.e., what you want to explore and answer. You have to convince readers why your paper is interesting, important, and relevant, i.e., why they should read your paper. You have to deliver a clear message on what the paper is about. If the readers are left unclear about what you try to say after reading the paper, then the paper is not clear. Good introduction and good conclusion are necessary, but also make sure that the whole paper is coherent, flows well, and is not confusing.
- ii. Reasonable arguments: Your arguments must be logical. For example, if you claim that excess demand leads to lower prices, that is not generally logical. If that is in fact the case, explain why it is so. Likewise, if you claim that more corruption leads to more private investment, make sure to explain why. Finally, if you would like to explain some findings or stylized facts, try to think about alternative explanations, and explain why your argument is preferred to the alternatives.
- iii. Contribution: Make sure the readers know what your contributions are. Copying ideas from other sources without putting your own analytical thinking and arguments into the paper will not give you high score in this category (even when you provide appropriate citations and references). Posting new questions, presenting new findings, or making your own opinions and arguments give you higher scores.

### C. Important Dates

A proposal for the term paper is due on Monday October 22. The proposal is two-page long and consists of (1) topic, (2) research question and motivation, (3) tentative outline of your study method and references.

The final paper is due on Monday November 26.

A 4-page slides due Friday November 30.

You will give a 5-minute presentation of your paper in class on Monday December 3.

## II. **Data Visualization**

You are required to create a data visualization that convey information about anything related to Southeast Asia. The visualization must conform with the following instructions:

- i. You collect raw data and create a graphic that presents the information from the data. The data could be from secondary source(s) but you are required to create the visualization by yourself.
- ii. You must choose the graphic format, title, label, colors, fonts that are appropriate to the information you present (line, bar, pie, scatter plot, fitted line, map, etc.). The graphic must be clearly presented and easy to understand.

- iii. It contains a short paragraph that summarizes the main message of the graphic. You can also add supplementary/clarifying information related to the graphic in this paragraph. The paragraph must *not* exceed 100 words. This word limit is strictly enforced.
- iv. It contains the source(s) of the data.
- v. The graphic, the summary paragraph, the data sources, and your name must be in one page of a letter size paper. Submit (1) the **pdf** format of the assignment AND (2) the raw data in spreadsheet format.
- vi. Your visualization is due on Monday October 29 at 11:59 p.m. You will present your infographic in class on November 5. Each presentation will be no longer than 2 minutes (plus Q&A).

For examples of the infographics, see the Economist's Daily Charts at [www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail](http://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail).

Note that a good visualization is not the one that contains as much data or information as possible or the one with fancy graphic design, but it is the one that effectively conveys the most important information to the readers. It should be self-contained, but not cluttered. It should minimize any confusions and easy to understand. For resources on how to make effective data visualization, read and consult the references in

Schwabish, Jonathan A. 2014. "An Economist's Guide to Visualizing Data." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 28(1): 209-34. Available online at [pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jep.28.1.209](http://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jep.28.1.209).

### III. Class Attendance, Participation, and Presentation

Class participation is an important part of the course. You are required to attend and participate in class discussion. **Laptops, tablets, and cellphones are not allowed in class.**

Each class will comprise three components:

1. "Southeast Asia Updates (SEA Updates)"

Every week we will have a discussion on "*Southeast Asia Updates*" where three students *individually* update class on current news on Southeast Asia. *Send at least two headlines to me by email by Sunday 11:59 p.m. of the week that you are responsible for presenting. Just send the links the websites; no need for slides.*

2. Background Presentations

On October 15, 22, 29, and November 19, 26, we will have 4 student presentations per week. The contents are the background and current issues in Southeast Asia. Each presentation will last for 15 minutes. A sign-up sheet will be set up. *Email me your slides by Friday 11.59 p.m. before the week that you are scheduled to present.*

3. Lecture

I will give a short lecture on the topics. This lecture will provide you with necessary knowledge about Southeast Asian economies. Readings will be posted on Ted.

## **Evaluation**

Your final grade will be computed from the following components:

Term Paper (including slides and final presentation)	50%
Data Visualization (including presentation)	15%
Background/Current Issue presentation	15%
Southeast Asia Updates	10%
Class Participation	10%

Submit the data visualization and the term paper through turnitin.com (the link is on Ted course webpage). The deadline for each assignment is at 11.59 pm of the due date.

## **Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism is unacceptable in this class and is considered as an academic dishonesty. You may quote some ideas from other sources but you must cite the sources properly and explicitly. Also, I will give higher scores to the papers that show your own analytical reasoning (even when the reasons are economically wrong) than to the papers that purely consist of pieces copied from other sources.

### Class Schedule

Week	Class Date	Important Date for Assignments
1	October 1	
2	October 8	
3	October 15	
4	October 22	October 22: Term paper proposal due date
5	October 29	October 29: Data visualization due date
6	November 5	November 5: Data visualization presentation, in class
7	November 12	<i>No class (Veteran Day)</i>
8	November 19	
9	November 26	November 26: Term paper submission due date November 30: Slide submission due date
10	December 3	December 3: Term paper presentation, in class

**Notes:**

1. Background and Current Issues presentations will take place on October 8, 15, 22, 29 and November 19, 26.
2. Southeast Asia Updates presentations will be weekly, starting October 8.