This course provides a broad and cursory overview of the evolution of Southeast Asia’s highly diverse political systems. It focuses on how the historical shaping of state power and social structures has helped shape prospects for contemporary democratization. The first segment sketches how the region as a whole was influenced (somewhat similarly and simultaneously) by processes of state formation, Western imperialism, the intensification of capitalist modes of production and exchange, Japanese military occupation, the rise of nationalism and onset of decolonization, Cold War rivalry, and democratic breakdown. After making a week-long foray into democratization theory, we consider the value of competing approaches in understanding why democratization movements ultimately succeeded at toppling authoritarian regimes in two specific cases (Indonesia and the Philippines), while failing in two others (Burma and Malaysia).

Weekly Readings and Writing Assignments

The following five books are available for purchase at the Seminary Co-Op Bookstore and on reserve at Regenstein Library. (Article- and chapter-length readings can be accessed through the course Chalk site, under “Library Course Reserves.”)

- Norman G. Owen et. al., *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia* (Hawaii 2005)
- Alfred W. McCoy, *Closer Than Brothers: Manhood at the Philippine Military Academy* (Yale/Anvil 1999)
- Edward Aspinall, *Opposing Suharto: Compromise, Resistance, and Regime Change in Indonesia* (Stanford 2005)
- Meredith L. Weiss, *Protest and Possibilities: Civil Society and Coalitions for Political Change in Malaysia* (Stanford 2005)
Each student is required to write **four** short (about 2-3 page) response papers to the weekly readings over the course of the quarter. Please put hard copies of these papers in my box in Pick 401 by **2pm** on the day of class for which the readings are assigned. Although students have discretion on which specific readings they respond to, each student is expected to write **at least two** of the four essays during Part I of the course.

There will also be take-home midterm and final exams, requiring about 6-8 pages of writing each. *Students who wish to write a final research paper of around 15-20 pages in lieu of the take-home exams may do so with the consent of the instructor.* Final grades will be based on the two take-home exams (30% each for a total of 60%), the four weekly papers (5% each for a total of 20%), and class participation (20%).

**Course Schedule**

**Part I: State and Society in Southeast Asian History**

**January 8:** Course Overview

**January 10:** Introducing the Region and the Approach

- Owen et. al., pp. 1-15.

**January 15:** Colonial Transformations of State and Society (I)

- Owen et. al., 35-63, 73-81.

**January 17:** Colonial Transformations of State and Society (II)

- Owen et. al., 201-221.
January 22: Divergent Pathways to National Independence (I)

- Owen et. al., pp. 252-334.

January 24: Divergent Pathways to National Independence (II)

- Owen et. al., pp. 335-375 [especially 335-359].

January 29: Southeast Asia During and Beyond the Cold War (I)

- Owen et. al., pp. 379-398, 409-447.

January 31: Southeast Asia During and Beyond the Cold War (II)

- Owen et. al. pp. 448-508 [especially 455-467 and 497-506].

*** MIDTERM EXAM DISTRIBUTED AFTER CLASS;
DUE 10AM MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH ***

II. Southeast Asian Democratization and Dictatorship

February 5: Democratization Theory (I)


February 7: Democratization Theory (II)

Barbara Geddes, “What Do We Know About Democratization After Twenty Years?” *Annual Review of Political Science* 2 (1999), pp. 115-144.

**February 12: The Military and Democratization in the Philippines (I)**

**February 14: The Military and Democratization in the Philippines (II)**
- McCoy, *Closer Than Brothers*, pp. 183-352 [especially 183-258].

**February 19: The Military and Authoritarianism in Burma (I)**

**February 21: The Military and Authoritarianism in Burma (II)**

**February 26: The Military and Authoritarianism in Burma (III)**

**February 28: Civil Society and Democratization in Indonesia (I)**
- Aspinall, *Opposing Suharto*, pp. xi – xii and 1-144.

**March 4: Civil Society and Democratization in Indonesia (II)**

**March 6: Civil Society and Authoritarianism in Malaysia (I)**

**March 11: Civil Society and Authoritarianism in Malaysia (II)**

*** FINAL EXAM DISTRIBUTED SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH; DUE 5PM TUESDAY, MARCH 18TH ***