Southeast Asia is a diverse and dynamic region where multitudes of people and languages interact in a rapidly changing economic and societies of ten nations. Southeast Asia has for centuries been a crossroads of economic and cultural exchange, and today its societies draw on influences from around the world; particularly, as in the beginning of the 21st century, the state of southeast Asia are creating much more innovative forms of political, economic and security cooperation that are moving the region toward an independent role in Asia-Pacific affairs. Moreover, Southeast Asia is a region of strategic sensitivity because of the intersection of the interest several major powers there- the U.S., China, Russia and Japan. Among them, China’s situation is very different and important, as Southeast Asia is a vital neighboring area which must not be controlled by hostile regimes, and preferably should be rule by states that acknowledge China’s historical superiority and current prominence.

The course designs to provide students an engaging introductory look at the history, culture, and politics of his intriguing region. It also provides student an introductory background for understanding China’s SAEAN policy in the beginning of this century, in the hope of answering the question of whether or not the PRC is a threat to Southeast Asia in the long run.

The course will be organized as a seamier fashion. Grades will be based on class participation, including in-class discussion, small write-up, and a Term-Paper 100%.

Textbook:

7. 張錫鎮, 《東南亞政府與政治》, 台北:揚智文化, 1999
8. 陳鴻瑜, 《東南亞各國的政治與外交政策》, 台北:渤海堂文化事業, 1992
9. 陳欣之, 《東南亞安全》, 台北:揚智文化, 1999
10. 顧長永, 《東南亞政府與政治》, 台北:五南, 1995
11. 宋鎮照, 《東協國家之政經發展》, 台北:五南, 1996
12. 陳鴻瑜, 《南海諸島之發現開發與國際衝突》, 台北:國立編譯館, 1997
13. 楊志恆等, 《我國應有的南海戰略》, 台北:業強出版社, 1996

**Recommended Reading:**

In order to keep up with the current development, journal articles and periodicals will be used to supplement the required books.

**Course Outline:**

Unit1: Introduction
Unit2: The Social-geopolitical environment of Southeast Asia
Unit3: Western colonialism, Japanese occupation, and statehood
Unit4: Southeast Asia and the Cold War
Unit5: The role and origins of ASEAN
Unit6: Regionalism of Southeast Asia (economic perspective)
Unit7: Regionalism of Southeast Asia (Security perspective)
Unit8: US in Southeast Asia
Unit9: Japan in Southeast Asia
Unit10: China and the overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia
Unit11: South China Sea as a flashpoint
Unit12: Burma in Southeast Asia
Unit13: Southeast Asia toward 21st century — paper presentation