

PS 5701 Seminar on Asian Democratization (東亞民主化專題)

Fall 2025

Instructor: Min-Hua Huang
Class Time & Location: Tue 10:20-12:10, SSB 407
Office Hours: By appointment

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Course Description

This course will introduce the democratization process of East and Southeast Asian Countries. The countries are categorized by regime types into 4 groups: liberal democracy, electoral democracy, electoral autocracy, and closed autocracy. Systematic comparison will be focused on the application of the modernization theory and authoritarian resilience theory.

Course Objective

The course aims to make students familiarize the democratization process and political development of East and Southeast Asian countries, where Asian Barometer conducted national probabilistic surveys. Students are expected to understand the trajectory of East and Southeast Asian political development and the theories that could explain the divergent trends and results. In each week, the instructor will ask students to prepare using the different theories to look at the democratization process in each country and provide their own insights and explanations.

Learning Outcome

- Understand the history of political development and the democratization process in 14 Asian and Southeast Asian Countries
- Understand the theoretical background of the democratization studies.
- Identify key issues and problems of democratization in each of the 14 countries.
- Develop insight and explanations to explain those issues and problems identified.

Course Requirement

There are different requirements for graduate and undergraduate students. For graduate students, there are two assignments (50%) due at the week 7 (Oct 14) and week 13 (Nov 25). Each written assignment is a two-page short essay covering a topic or country analytically. The final paper (50%) should be a research paper format between 10-15 pages due at the week 16 (Dec 16). For undergraduate students, there is only one written assignment (30%) due at week 11 (Nov 11), which is also a two-page short essay as well. The content can be descriptive or analytical, but has to identify a country to address. The final paper (70%) is a 5-page format due at the week 16 (Dec 16). There is no restriction on the topic, but it has to be related to this course.

Outlines and Topics

The course will be proceeded by countries. In each week, the instructor will ask students to prepare using the different theories to look at the democratization process in each country in the following order: 1. Japan. 2. South Korea. 3. Taiwan. 4. Thailand. 5. The Philippines. 6. Indonesia. 7. Mongolia. 8. Malaysia. 9. Singapore. 10. Hong Kong. 11. Myanmar. 12. Cambodia. 13. China. 14. Vietnam.

Text and Readings (Not Required, Only Recommend for Background Reading)

1. Inglehart, R., & Welzel, C. (2009). How Development Leads to Democracy: What We Know About Modernization. *Foreign Affairs*, 88(2), 33–48.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/20699492>
2. Cheibub, J. A., and Veeland, R. J. (2018). Modernization Theory: Does Economic Development Cause Democratization?, In C. Lancaster, and N. V. de Walle (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of the Politics of Development* (pp.3-21), Oxford: Oxford University Press.
3. Gerschewski, J. (2023). *The Two Logics of Autocratic Rule*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
4. Chu, Y. H. et al. (Eds.) 2010. *How East Asians View Democracy*. Columbia University Press.
5. Chu, Y. H., Chang, Y. T., Huang, M. H., and Huang, K. P. (Eds). (2023). *How Asians View Democratic Legitimacy*. Taipei: National Taiwan University Press.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Sep 2)	Topic	Introduction (Scope, Purpose, Expectation, and Administrative Issues)
	Reading	• Karl W. Deutsch. (1961). Social Mobilization and Political Development. <i>American Political Science Review</i> 55(3): 493-514. (Modernization Theory)
Week 2 (Sep 9)	Topic	General Theories (Modernization Theory, Citizen Politics, Critical Citizens, Post-materialist Culture)
	Reading	• Samuel Huntington. (1968). <i>Political Order in Changing Societies</i> . New Haven: Yale University Press. • Pippa Norris. (1999). <i>Critical Citizens: Global Support for Democratic Government</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 1. (Critical Citizenship) • Russel Dalton. (2014). <i>Citizen Politics</i> . Thousand Oaks: Sage, Part 1. (Democratic Citizenship) • Seymour Martin Lipset. (1960). <i>Political Man</i> . Garden City, New York: Anchor Books, Chapter 1. (Political Socialization) • Ronald Inglehart. (1997). <i>Modernization and Postmodernization</i> . Princeton: Princeton University Press. (Post-materialist Culture)
Week 3 (Sep 16)	Topic	Authoritarian Resilience Theory
	Reading	• Gerschewski, J. (2023). <i>The Two Logics of Autocratic Rule</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Week 4	Topic	Japan (Weak Opposition)

(Sep 23)	Reading	• Ethan Scheiner. (2005). Pipelines of Pork: A Model of Local Opposition Party Failure. <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 38(7):799-823.
Week 5 (Sep 30)	Topic	South Korea (Political Succession Problem)
	Reading	• David I. Steinberg. (2005). “The Evolution of the Political Party System and The Future of Party Politics in the Republic of Korea” in Alexandre Y Mansourov (ed.), <i>A Turning Point: Democratic Consolidation in the ROK and Strategic Readjustment in the US-ROK Alliance</i> (Honolulu: APCSS), Chapter 7.
Week 6 (Oct 7)	Topic	Taiwan (Political Polarization)
	Reading	• Min-Hua Huang. (2021). “Taiwan's Democracy at Multiple Crossings: Clashes of Partisanship, Generations, Classes, and Social Values” in Wonbin Cho and Kuyoun Chung (eds), <i>New Democracy in the New Normal Asia</i> (London: Routledge), Chapter 12.
Week 7 (Oct 14)	Topic	Thailand (Political Instability with Constant Coups)
	Reading	• Chris Baker. (2016). The 2014 Thai Coup and Some Roots of Authoritarianism. <i>Journal of Contemporary Asia</i> 46(3): 388-404.
Week 8 (Oct 21)	Topic	The Philippines (Clientelism and Populism)
	Reading	• Julio C. Teehankee. (2012). “Clientelism and Party Politics in the Philippines”, in Dirk Tomsa and Andreas Ufen (eds.), <i>Party Politics in Southeast Asia</i> (London: Routledge), Chapter 10.
Week 9 (Oct 28)	Topic	Indonesia (Military/Secularism vs. Opposition/Islamic)
	Reading	• David M. Bouchier. (2019). Two Decades of Ideological Contestation in Indonesia: From Democratic Cosmopolitanism to Religious Nationalism. <i>Journal of Contemporary Asia</i> 49(5): 713-733.
Week 10 (Nov 4)	Topic	Mongolia (Instrument Use of Political Reforms)
	Reading	• Munkh-Erdene, Lhamsuren. (2010). The Transformation of Mongolia's Political System: From Semi-parliamentary to Parliamentary? <i>Asian Survey</i> 50(2): 311-334.
Week 11 (Nov 11)	Topic	Malaysia (Impact of the First Power Transition)
	Reading	• Min-Hua Huang. (2021). “Impact of Power Transition in Malaysian Changing Democracy”, in Yun-han Chu (ed.), <i>Asian Barometer Commemorative Volume</i> , Chapter 27.

Week 12 (Nov 18)	Topic	Singapore (Calibrated Coercion)
	Reading	• Cherian George. (2007). Consolidating Authoritarian Rule: Calibrated Coercion in Singapore. <i>The Pacific Review</i> 20(2): 127-145.
Week 13 (Nov 25)	Topic	Hong Kong (Failed Democratization)
	Reading	• Stephan Ortmann. (2016). Political Development in Hong Kong: The Failure of Democratization. <i>Asian International Studies Review</i> 17(2): 199-219.
Week 14 (Dec 2)	Topic	Myanmar (Failure of Elite Bargaining)
	Reading	• Bridget Welsh, Kai-ping Huang, Yun-han Chu, “Myanmar’s Failed Democratization: Conflicting Attitudes Toward Democracy”, in Yun-han Chu (ed.), <i>Asian Barometer Commemorative Volume</i> , Chapter 25.
Week 15 (Dec 9)	Topic	Cambodia (Thriving Opposition and the Legal Coup)
	Reading	• Min-Hua Huang, “Thriving Opposition and Political Empowerment in Cambodia Before the 2017 Party Ban”, in Yun-han Chu (ed.), <i>Asian Barometer Commemorative Volume</i> , Chapter 24.
Week 16 (Dec 16)	Topic	China, Vietnam (One-party System)
	Reading	• Minxin Pei. (2021). China: Totalitarianism's Long Shadow. <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 32(2):5-21. • Bui, Hai Thiem. (2014). Pluralism Unleashed: the Politics of Reforming the Vietnamese Constitution. <i>Journal of Vietnamese Studies</i> 9 (4) 1-32.