COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will introduce the laws and legal traditions of South East Asia in comparative and socio-legal perspective, dealing with the legal issues of greatest importance in the region. The course will cover most of the 10 ASEAN countries, but with an emphasis on Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and ASEAN itself. Specific topics will likely include law and development, law and religion, constitutionalism, customary law, public and private legal ordering, transnational regulation, military rule and emergency powers.

OBJECTIVES

This course aims to provide students with a working knowledge of law and legal systems in Southeast Asia. It aims to provide an understanding of the historical, political and cultural context of law, the region’s many legal traditions, and legal issues of contemporary importance. It will introduce students to innovative approaches to legal problems drawing on the multiple sources of legal norms and the variety of legal orders in the region. Students will be given the opportunity to study at least one jurisdiction in depth.

METHODOLOGY

This is a seminar course. It will feature several guest speakers, some of whom will attend by video-link from Asia.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Details of evaluation arrangements remain subject to change. However, it is expected that evaluation will be by a combination of: a group presentation and facilitation of class discussion (10%); a written profile (1,500 words) of one jurisdiction in Southeast Asia (20%); participation in the seminar (10%); and a 4000-word research paper (60%).

30 May 2018

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1 The information in this document is provided for course registration purposes only and is subject to change. More detailed course information about course content and evaluation will be provided upon the commencement of the course. Students seeking additional information about the course prior to its commencement may contact the instructor or, if no instructor is listed, the Associate Dean (lawassoc@uvic.ca).