College of Commerce
Division of Economic and Financial Studies
Economics Department

UNIT OUTLINE

ECON349: Southeast Asian Economies

First Semester, 2008

Unit Convenor: Alison Vicary
Prerequisites: ECON235 or ECON200 or ECON201

Students in this unit should read this unit outline carefully at the start of semester. It contains important information about this unit. If anything in it is unclear, please consult one of the teaching staff in the unit.

ABOUT THIS UNIT

3 credit points. Each credit point assumes 2-3 hours private study in addition to class attendance.

This course aims to introduce students to the main issues affecting economic growth and development in the Southeast Asian region today. Six economies in the region are studied: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Economic development is conceived of as a process combining economic growth, structural change and institutional change in a way that brings about increased well-being and opportunities for all members of society. This process is analysed using a political economy approach which deals specifically with the historical, political, social and cultural factors influencing economic strategies, policies and the development process in Southeast Asia.

Specific issues to be dealt with are:
- The different approaches economists have used to analyse the development process and their influence on policy.
- What have been the main trends in economic growth and structural change in the region and how has the pattern varied within the region?
- How does state intervention affect economic development?
- How do policies towards labour, income distribution and the environment affect economic development?
- What were the causes of the Asian economic crisis of the late 1990s and what lessons can we learn from it?

At the end of the unit students should

- have acquired an understanding of the main influences on economic development in the six countries over the past half century;
- be able to analyse the major socio-economic factors promoting and inhibiting further sustained development;
- be aware of the differing perspectives in the literature on development of the region.

In addition to the discipline-based learning objectives, all academic programs at Macquarie seek to develop students’ generic skills in a range of areas. One of the aims of this unit is that students develop skills in the following:

- Essay writing.
- Critical analysis.
- Communication (especially in presenting your ideas to an audience).
- Working in teams.
TEACHING STAFF
Convenor: Alison Vicary
  Room: 4BA437,
  Tel: 9850 88591
  Email: avicary@efs.mq.edu.au
Consulting hours: Thursday 2-4 pm

CLASSES

- One 2-hour lecture each week, Tuesday 6-8 pm in E5A 116.
- One 1-hour tutorial, commencing in week 4. 6 tutorials in total. Tutorials are held on Tuesdays at either 5 pm in E5A116 or at 8pm in E5A116.
- If you wish to transfer from one class to another, please consult the unit convenor.
- It is an assessment requirement of this unit that students attend tutorial classes (see further below).

UNIT CALENDAR

Please note that this is only a rough guide to lecture topics. There may be some overlap between weeks.

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Mid-semester break

| Week 8  | Cambodia and Laos | Logging |          |
| Week 9  | Agriculture and Industrialization |          | Lecture due In Lecture |
| Week 10 | Financial Crisis | Labour Migration & Human ‘Trafficking’ |          |
| Week 11 | Aid and the Multi-lateral Institutions | Land Tenure & Title |          |
| Week 12 | Environment & the Economy |          |          |
| Week 13 |          |          | Exams 15-29 June |
UNIT WEB PAGE

- The web page for this unit can be found at: http://www.econ.mq.edu.au/courses/econ349/index.htm

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY

- Lectures cover the basic content of the unit. They do not, however, cover the entire content which must be made up with extra reading and tutorial work. Tutorials consist of student presentations and class discussion. Tutorial attendance is compulsory and marks will be deducted for failure to participate (see further under ASSESSMENT).
- Students are expected not only to attend classes, but to prepare for them in advance (it helps to know what the class is about!).
- You are encouraged to ask questions in lectures. You are expected to ask questions in tutorials.
- You are required to submit a project report by the due date.
- You are required to pass the examination in order to pass the unit.

TUTORIAL TOPICS

Tutorial Presentation – 5%
- Don’t have to write paper for tutorial
- Do have to place references for other students on the website
- Topics covered in the tutorial program will be in the exam

General Participation – 10%

Week 4: Textile and Garment Industry in the Region
What is the state of the garment industry in ASEAN? Who are the major producers? Who are the major investors? How important is it as a source of employment? What are wages and employment conditions like? What are the prospects for the industry?

Week 5 Drugs in the Region
Which countries are the main producers of drugs in ASEAN? How is behind the production? Where does the money go? What are the policies to tackle the supply of drugs in the region? What is the economic impact of drug production?

Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, Ministry of Home Affairs (CCDAC) – www.myanmar-narcotic.net
Irrawaddy – www.irrawaddy.org/
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) – See country offices for Burma (Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam)
**Week 7: Corruption, Cronyism and its Economic Impact**

Case Study is probably the best approach here as large issue and much to choose from.

Newspapers - Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines
Indonesian Corruption Watch – [www.antikorupsi.org/eng/](http://www.antikorupsi.org/eng/)

**MID-SEMESTER BREAK HERE**

**Week 8: The Logging Industry in the Region**

Who is behind the logging industry? Where does it operate? What have been the benefits and the costs of the industry? What about the future?

**Week 10 Agricultural Land Tenure and Title**

What are basic systems for title over agricultural land in the different countries in the region? What are the benefits and problems associated with these systems? You might like then to focus on the issue in one or two countries?


**Week 11: Labour Migration and Human Trafficking**

There are large population movements from Burma, Lao and Cambodia. Burmese are going to Thailand and Malaysia. People from Lao and Cambodia are moving to Thailand. There are also many people from Philippines going overseas for employment (though focus on the region) There are probably other groups check it out.

What are the major patterns of labour migration in the region? In other words, where are the migrants from and where are they going? However, focus on labour migration within the region. What are the policies in place? What do you think of the policies?

Irrawaddy – [www.irrawaddy.org](http://www.irrawaddy.org)
United Nations Interagency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP) – [www.no-trafficking.org](http://www.no-trafficking.org)
RECOMMENDED TEXTS

• There are no prescribed texts or materials for this unit.

• Recommended: Rodan et al (eds), The Political Economy of Southeast Asia: Conflicts, Crises and Change, OUP, Melbourne, 2001

READING GUIDE

For each week, readings are divided into two categories: essential and supplementary.

Topic 1: Introduction

Essential:
Rodan et al (eds) 2001, The Political Economy of Southeast Asia, OUP, Melbourne, ch.1

Supplementary:

Topic 2: Country studies

Indonesia

Essential:


Indonesian Corruption Watch – www.antikorupsi.org/eng/
Supplementary:

Check Out
Year of Living Dangerously, Directed Peter Weir – DVD
Pramoedya Ananta Toer

Malaysia

Essential:


Supplementary:
Bowie, Alasdair 1994 ‘The dynamics of business-government relations in industrialising Malaysia’, ch. 6 in Macintyre, Andrew (ed.).
Jesudason, James V., 1990, Ethnicity and the Economy: the state, Chinese business and multinationals in Malaysia, Singapore
Jomo K.S. 1997, ch. 5

Singapore & Brunei

Essential:

Supplementary:
Philippines

**Essential:**

**Supplementary:**
Boyce, James K. (1993), The Political Economy of Growth and Impoverishment in the Marcos Era, Ateneo de Manila University, Manila
Hawes, Gary, 1989, ‘Marcos, his cronies and the Philippines’ failure to develop’ in Ruth McVey (ed.) Southeast Asian Capitalists, Cornell University, Ithaca

Thailand

**Essential:**

**Supplementary:**
Jomo K.S. 1997, ch. 4
Laothamatas, Anek, 1994, ‘From clientelism to partnership: business-government relations in Thailand’, ch. 7 in Macintyre, Andrew (ed.).
Warr, Peter, 1993, Thailand’s Economic Miracle, National Thai Studies Centre, ANU, Canberra

Vietnam

**Essential:**

**Supplementary:**
Marr, David G. and White, Christine P., 1988, Postwar Vietnam: Dilemmas of Socialist Development, Cornell University, Ithaca

Burma, Cambodia and Laos

Burma Economic Watch
**Topic 3: Agrarian reform**

*Essential:*

Pincus, Jonathan 1990, 'Approaches to the Political Economy of Agrarian Change in Java', *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 20:1


*Supplementary:*


Ofreneo, Rene, 1980, *Capitalism in Philippine Agriculture*, Foundation for Nationalist Studies, Quezon City

Hill 1996, ch. 8


**Topic 4: Industrialization Strategies**

*Essential:*


Andreff, W. ‘The double transition from underdevelopment and from socialism’, *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 23:4, pp. 515-31

*Supplementary:*


Hill, 1996, ch. 8

Jomo K.S., 1990, chs 5, 6


Beresford, 1989, ch. 6


**Topic 5: Financial Crisis**


**Supplementary:**


Beresford, Melanie, excerpt from ‘Impact of the Asian Crisis on Vietnam’ in ERIC

Boyce, James K. 1993, chs 9-11


Jomo K.S., 1990, chapters 4, 7


**Topic 5: The Economy and the Environment**

*Essential:*

Fahn, James (2003) *A Land on Fire: The Environmental Consequences of the Southeast Asian Boom*, Westview


**Supplementary:**

Boyce, James K. 1993, ch. 2


Hill 1996: ch. 10

Jomo K.S. 1990, ch. 4


Boyce, James K. 1993, ch. 8

Huynh, F and Stengel, H., 1993, ‘Sustainable Development: challenges to a developing country’, ch. 10 in Mya Than and Tan (eds)


**Topic 7: Aid and the Multilateral Institutions**
ASSESSMENT

Exam 70%
Essay 15%
Tutorial Presentation 5%
Seminar participation and presentation 10%

- The examination (70% of total) will consist of a two hour paper in which students will be required to answer three questions.
  The rationale for this examination is twofold:
  (1) to ensure that each student has covered the unit content adequately;
  (2) to ensure that students are able to express what they have learned in their own words.
  It is very important to note that you cannot pass the unit unless you pass the exam.

The University Examination period in First Half Year 2005 is from 15 to 29 June.

You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the University Examination Timetable. The timetable will be available in Draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in Final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations. http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/exam

The only exception to not sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consider applying for Special Consideration. Information about unavoidable disruption and the special consideration process is available at http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/Forms/APSCon.pdf

If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Special Consideration process the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period. (Individual Divisions may wish to signal when the Division’s Supplementaries are normally scheduled.)

You are advised that it is Macquarie University policy not to set early examinations for individuals or groups of students. All students are expected to ensure that they are available until the end of the teaching semester, that is the final day of the official examination period.

- The project report (20% of total) will be of about 2000 words. It is due on Friday 6 May. Excessive length will be penalised proportionately.
  Your section of the report must clearly indicate to which team you belong and your section number in the report. Details to be distributed separately.
  These papers are to be submitted by two methods:
  (1) Hard copy to assignment boxes in ERIC before closing time on the due date.
  (2) Electronic version via Turnitin. Go to www.turnitin.com and click on ‘create a user profile’. Then select ‘student’ from the drop down menu and follow the steps. The class ID number is 1265464 and the password is sukarno. You use these to establish and account for ECON349. Note that passwords are case
sensitive, so type it exactly as it appears here. You will then get your own user ID and password.

Both versions must be submitted on the due date. Both versions must be identical.

Extensions of time may be granted for medical or compassionate reasons, at the discretion of the unit convenor. Written evidence of the extension must be attached to the hard copy of the essay when it is submitted. Late papers (without an extension) will be penalised at the rate of 1% of the available marks per day (so an essay that is 15 days late will receive no marks).

The topic and further details about the project will be supplied separately.

Marks will be awarded for:

- presentation of a coherent, logical argument;
- structure of the paper;
- evidence of critical analysis of the sources used;
- use of evidence (including quotation from sources) in support of the argument;
- presentation – this means tidy and readable text with adequate margins and spacing, clear paragraphing and use of subheadings where necessary. If in doubt, consult the essay writing guidelines.

Marks will be deducted for:

- plagiarism (please note that this includes not referencing your sources according to one of the accepted methods).
- failure to submit identical versions by the due date.

Reports will be returned not more than a month after the due date or one week after the longest extension granted.

The rationale for the essay consists of:

1. enabling students to cover at least one part of the unit in greater depth than is possible in lectures/exams.
2. gaining practice at the important skill of report/essay writing.
3. gaining practice at working in teams.

In relation to (2) above, please read the essay writing guidelines for this unit carefully and study the University’s policy on plagiarism (see below under PLAGIARISM).

**Participation** (10% of total).

Participation marks will be awarded according to the level and quality of your participation. Questions/discussion that show no evidence of preparation will not be rewarded. Mere attendance is insufficient to earn marks.

Marks will be deducted for non-attendance (1 mark per class missed). Leave of absence may be granted upon the production of good evidence. Otherwise you will need to make up for lost marks by the quality of your participation and presentation.

Presentation marks will be awarded on the basis of your ability to communicate an argument to the other students. Your presentation needs to be succinct, be clearly linked to the presentations of others in your group, not consist of tiny print on
overhead projections that are illegible to the class, not be aimed at your feet or the whiteboard rather than the audience, not be too long or too short.

Individual presentations must not be more than 5 minutes long. All presenters will be stopped at 5 minutes and marks will be awarded only on the basis of what has been presented to that point.

Marks will be awarded for:

- coherent and succinct argument in response to specific question(s);
- structure of presentation;
- good content;
- quality of presentation (high tech not important);

Marks will be deducted for:

- failure to present (5 marks).

Rationale for these assessments:

- practice in presenting to an audience (communication skills);
- practice at working in teams;
- practice at expressing ideas in public.

PLAGIARISM

The University defines plagiarism in its rules: ‘Plagiarism involves using the work of another person and presenting it as one’s own.” Plagiarism is a serious breach of the University’s rules and carries significant penalties. You must read the University’s practices and procedures on plagiarism. These can be found in the Handbook of Undergraduate Studies or on the web at: http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagarism/

The policies and procedures explain what plagiarism is, how to avoid it, the procedures that will be taken in cases of suspected plagiarism, and the penalties if you are found guilty. Penalties may include a deduction of marks, failure in the unit, and/or referral to the University Discipline Committee.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON GRADING

The Academic Senate has a set of guidelines on the distribution of grades across the range from fail to high distinction. Your final result will include one of these grades plus a standardised numerical grade (SNG).

On occasion your raw mark for a unit (i.e. the total of your marks for each assessment item) may not be the same as the SNG which you receive. Under the senate guidelines, results may be scaled to ensure that there is a degree of comparability across the university, so that units with the same past performances of their students should receive similar results.

It is important that you realize that the policy does not require that a minimum of students be failed in any unit. In fact it does something like the opposite, in requiring examiners to explain their actions if more than 20% of students fail in a unit.

The process of scaling does not change the order of marks among students. A student who receives a higher raw mark than another will also receive a higher final scaled mark.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at http://www.student.mq.edu.au.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS

Wall Street Journal Asia

Burma (Myanmar)
- New Light of Myanmar (NLM)
  - Regime rubbish but gives an indication of the mentality
- Myanmar Economic Times
  - Less crappy than the NLM (owned by Aussie)
- Irrwaddy – www.irrawaddy.org/
  - Independent monthly journal (financed by US aid program) operating from Thailand and many journalists Burmese political exiles
- Burmanetnews
  - Can sign-up online;
  - Collates news articles from English language newspapers (daily)

Cambodia
- Cambodian Online – www.cambodianonline.net/
- Phnom Penh Post – www.phnompenhpost.com/

Indonesia
- Jakarta Post – www.thejarkatapost.com
- Inside Indonesia – http://insideindonesia.org/
- Tempo

Laos
- Lao News Agency – www.kphnet.net/ (Government)
- Vientiane Times – www.vientianetimes.org.la/ (Government)

Malaysia
- Borneo Post – www.theborneopost.com
- New Strait Times – www.nst.com.my/ (Linked to UMNO)
- The Star – http://thestar.com.my (Linked to MCA)

Philippines
- GMA News – www.gmanews.tv/

Singapore
- Straits Times – www.straitstimes.com (Government)

Thailand
- Bangkok Post
- The Nation
Vietnam

Radio
- Asia Pacific – Daily on ABC News Radio
- Asia Business – Weekly on ABC News Radio
These also available as podcasts.