



B.E. International Program

Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University



TENTATIVE Course Outline

PO224 Economic and Social Ecology of Thai Government and Politics

This class aims to give you broad knowledge and analysis of modern Thai politics and its socio-economic background. Thai political culture and cultural politics, state and society relations, political economy, socio-economic foundation of politics, the structural and institutional features, ideological contestation and political practices, democratization and democratic breakdown, pattern of conflicts and political violence, and major current problems of politics and government will be examined.

The basic skills that this subject aims to provide students include effective communication in writing (through assignments) and speaking, the ability to conduct critical analysis, the ability to do research effectively, the ability to use evidence to build arguments and the ability to evaluate evidence, the ability to develop coherent arguments and to evaluate the arguments of others, and to foster an interest in modern Thai politics.

GENERAL READINGS

You are encouraged to read the English-language newspapers--the *Nation* and *Bangkok Post*—regularly so that you have basic information of the current situation. The following books and articles are key texts in this class.

Anderson, Benedict, “Withdrawal Symptoms: Social and Cultural Aspects of the October 6 Coup,” *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars*, 9, no. 3 (1977): 13-30.

Anek Laothamatas, “Business and Politics in Thailand: New Pattern of Influence,” *Asian Survey* 28: 451-470.

Batson, B. A. (1984). *The end of the absolute monarchy in Siam*. Singapore: Oxford University Press.

Callahan, William, “The Discourse of Vote Buying and Political Reforms in Thailand,” *Pacific Affairs* 78, no. 1 (Spring 2005): 95-113.

Chai-anan Samudavanija, “Thailand: A Stable Semi-Democracy,” in *Democracy in Developing Countries*, vol. 3 Asia, eds. Larry Diamond, J. Linz, and S.M. Lipset (London: Adamantine Press, 1989), 305-346.

Fineman, D. (1997). *A special relationship: The United States and military government in Thailand, 1947-1958*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Hicken, Allen, “Party Fabrication: Constitutional Reform and the Rise of Thai Rak Thai,” *Journal of East Asian Studies* 6 (2006): 381-407.

- Mead, K. K. (2004). *The rise and decline of Thai absolutism*. London: RoutledgeCurzon.
- McCargo, D. (2005). Network monarchy and legitimacy crises in Thailand. *Pacific Review*, 18(4), 499-519.
- McCargo, Duncan (ed.), *Reforming Thai Politics* (Copenhagen: NIAS; Richmond: Curzon, 2002).
- Naruemon Thabchumpon and Duncan McCargo, "Urbanized Villagers in the 2010 Thai Redshirt Protests," *Asian Survey* 51, no. 6 (2011): 993-1018.
- Nostitz, Nick, *Red VS. Yellow* (Bangkok: White Lotus, 2009).
- Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker, *A History of Thailand* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005).
- Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker, *Thaksin: The Business of Politics in Thailand* (Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2004).
- Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker, *Thailand: Economy and Politics* (Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press, 1995).
- Prajak Kongkirati, "Counter-movements in Democratic Transition: Thai Right-Wing Movements after the 1973 Popular Uprising," *Asian Review* 19 (2008).
- Prajak Kongkirati, "Thailand: The Cultural Politics of Student Resistance," in *Student Activism in Asia: Between Protest and Powerlessness*, eds. Meredith Weiss and Edward Aspinall (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2012), 229-258.
- Prajak Kongkirati, "The Rise and Fall of Electoral Violence in Thailand: Changing Rules, Structures and Power Landscape, 1997-2011," *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, vol.38, No.3 (2014): 386-416.
- Sombat Chantornvong, "Local Godfathers in Thai Politics," in *Money and Power in Provincial Thailand*, ed. Ruth McVey (Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2000).
- Surin Maisrikrod and Duncan McCargo, "Electoral Politics: Commercialisation and Exclusion," in *Political Change in Thailand: Democracy and Participation*, ed. Kevin Hewison (London: Routledge, 1997), 132-148.
- Thak Chaloeontiarana, *Thailand: The Politics of Despotism* (Bangkok: Social Science Association of Thailand, 1979).
- Thongchai Winichakul, "Toppling Democracy," *Journal of Contemporary Asia* 38, no. 1 (2008): 11-37.

ASSESSMENT

- Book reviews (20% of final mark)
- Final exam (50% of final mark)
- Class participation (30% of final mark)

PLAGIARISM

You are reminded that plagiarism, i.e. the unacknowledged borrowing of the work of another (including cutting and pasting from the *Internet*), is a very serious academic offence which may incur serious penalties.

LECTURE TIMETABLE

Week	Lecture title	Lecture date	Lecturer / Guest lecturer
1	Introduction	15 January 2015	Prajak K.
2	Modern state building	22 January 2015	Prajak K.
3	The 1932 Revolution	29 January 2015	Prajak K.
4	People Party, counter-revolution and nationalism	5 February 2015	Prajak K.
5	Sarit-Thanom military regime	12 February 2015	Prajak K.
6	The 1973 Student uprising	19 February 2015	Prajak K.
7	Violent democratic transition and breakdown (1973-1976)	26 February 2015	Prajak K.
	Midterm exam	5 March 2015	
8	Semi-democratic regime (1976-1988)	12 March 2015	Prajak K.
9	The 1991 coup, the 1992 May event, middle class, and reform movement	19 March 2015	Prajak K.
10	The 1997 constitution and economic crisis	26 March 2015	Prajak K.
11	Thaksin era	2 April 2015	Prajak K.
12	The 2006 coup, the judicial activism and the Yellow shirt movement	9 April 2015	Prajak K.
	No class (holidays)	16 April 2015	
13	The Red shirt movement	23 April 2015	Prajak K.
14	The 2011 election, 2014 coup and current crisis	30 April 2015	Prajak K.
15	Class summary	7 May 2015	Prajak K.
	Final exam	22 May 2015, 13.30-16.30 hrs.	

Week 1 (Introduction)

Watching documentary “Paradoxcracy”

Week 2 Modern state building

Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker, *A History of Thailand* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005), 47-80.

Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker (2002), *Thailand: Economy and Politics*, Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press. Chapter 7.

Mead, K. K. (2004). *The rise and decline of Thai absolutism*. London: RoutledgeCurzon.

Week 3 The 1932 Revolution

Batson, B. A. (1984). *The end of the absolute monarchy in Siam*. Singapore: Oxford University Press.

Week 4 1932-1957: People Party, counter-revolution and nationalism

Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker, *A History of Thailand* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005), 105-139.

Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker (2002), *Thailand: Economy and Politics*, Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press. Chapter 8.

Week 5 1957-1973: Sarit-Thanom military regime

Thak Chaloehtiarana, *Thailand: The Politics of Despotic Paternalism* (Bangkok: Social Science Association of Thailand, 1979).

Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker (2002), *Thailand: Economy and Politics*, Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press. Chapter 4.

Week 6 The 1973 Student uprising

Anderson, Benedict, "Withdrawal Symptoms: Social and Cultural Aspects of the October 6 Coup," *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars*, 9, no. 3 (1977): 13-30.

Prajak Kongkirati, "Thailand: The Cultural Politics of Student Resistance," in *Student Activism in Asia: Between Protest and Powerlessness*, eds. Meredith Weiss and Edward Aspinall (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2012), 229-258.

Week 7 1973-1976: Violent democratic transition and breakdown

Anderson, Benedict, "Withdrawal Symptoms: Social and Cultural Aspects of the October 6 Coup," *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars*, 9, no. 3 (1977): 13-30.

Prajak Kongkirati, "Counter-movements in Democratic Transition: Thai Right-Wing Movements after the 1973 Popular Uprising," *Asian Review* 19 (2008).

Week 8 1976-1988: Semi-democratic regime

Chai-anan Samudavanija, "Thailand: A Stable Semi-Democracy," in *Democracy in Developing Countries*, vol. 3 Asia, eds. Larry Diamond, J. Linz, and S.M. Lipset (London: Adamantine Press, 1989), 305-346.

Sombat Chantornvong, "Local Godfathers in Thai Politics," in *Money and Power in Provincial Thailand*, ed. Ruth McVey (Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2000).

Week 9 The 1992 May event, middle class, and reform movement

Laothamatas, A. (1996). A Tale of two democracies: Conflicting perceptions of elections and democracy in Thailand. In R. H. Taylor (Ed.), *The Politics of Elections in Southeast Asia* (pp. 201-223). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

McCargo, Duncan (ed.), *Reforming Thai Politics* (Copenhagen: NIAS; Richmond: Curzon, 2002).

Callahan, William, "The Discourse of Vote Buying and Political Reforms in Thailand," *Pacific Affairs* 78, no. 1 (Spring 2005): 95-113.

Week 10 The 1997 constitution and economic crisis

Kevin Hewison (2005), 'Neo-liberalism and Domestic Capital: The Political Outcomes of the Economic Crisis in Thailand', *Journal of Development Studies* 41 (2).

Hicken, Allen, "Party Fabrication: Constitutional Reform and the Rise of Thai Rak Thai," *Journal of East Asian Studies* 6 (2006): 381-407.

McCargo, Duncan (ed.), *Reforming Thai Politics* (Copenhagen: NIAS; Richmond: Curzon, 2002).

Week 11 Thaksin era

Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker, *Thaksin: The Business of Politics in Thailand* (Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2004).

McCargo, D. (2005). Network monarchy and legitimacy crises in Thailand. *Pacific Review*, 18(4), 499-519.

Thitinan Phongsudhirak (2001), 'Thailand: Democratic Authoritarianism', *Southeast Asian Affairs*, Singapore: ISEAS.

Week 12 The 2006 coup, the judicial activism and the Yellow shirt movement

James Ockey (2007), 'Thailand's Professional Soldiers and Coup Making: The Coup of 2006', *Crossroads* 19 (1).

Thongchai Winichakul, "Toppling Democracy," *Journal of Contemporary Asia* 38, no. 1 (2008): 11-37.

Bjoern Dressel (2010), 'Judicialization of Politics or Politicization of the Judiciary? Considerations from Recent Events in Thailand', *The Pacific Review*, Vol. 23, No. 5.

Week 13 The Red shirt movement

Naruemon Thabchumpon and Duncan McCargo, "Urbanized Villagers in the 2010 Thai Redshirt Protests," *Asian Survey* 51, no. 6 (2011): 993-1018.

Nostitz, Nick, *Red VS. Yellow* (Bangkok: White Lotus, 2009).

Week 14 The 2011 election, the 2014 coup and current crisis

Prajak Kongkirati, "Thailand: robust electoral politics but unstable democracy," *East Asia Forum* (2012)

<http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2012/01/12/robust-electoral-politics-but-unstable-democracy>

Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker, "Reviving Democracy at Thailand's 2011 Election," *Asian Survey*, Vol.53, Number 4, pp.607-628.

Prajak Kongkirati, "The Rise and Fall of Electoral Violence in Thailand: Changing Rules, Structures and Power Landscape, 1997-2011," *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, vol.38, No.3 (2014): 386-416.

Week 15 Class summary