

**Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management**  
**Year 2018-2019**  
**Fall Semester 2018**

Course Syllabus

**COMPARATIVE PUBLIC POLICY**  
**(2 credits)**

*Teaching Team*

Instructor:           Huynh The Du                                 [du.huynh@fuv.edu.vn](mailto:du.huynh@fuv.edu.vn)  
Teaching Fellow:   Thach Phuoc Hung                                 [phuochung105@gmail.com](mailto:phuochung105@gmail.com)

*Office Hours*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Huynh The Du	17:00–18:30		17:00–18:30		
Thach Phuoc Hung		10:30 – 12:00			10:30 – 12:00

Members of the teaching team are also available at other times by appointment.

*Objective*

The course examines policy choices and development strategies adopted by selected Asian and Southeast Asian countries and the time frame for consideration is after Second World War until now. The course is mostly concerned with policies in education, infrastructure and urbanization, business and international competition, financial systems, government's efficiency and impartiality. Additionally, policy issues in industrialization and democratization conducive to one country's success or failure are also discussed. The course adopts a multi-perspective approach in analyzing policy choices and objectively compare nations under similar or different contexts.

After the course, students are expected to:

- Understand policy choices of some Asian countries given favorable and unfavorable factors.
- Develop comprehensive and deep insights in issues relevant to development or policy choices of these countries.
- Constructively criticize opportunities, challenges and choices of certain countries under different contexts and background.
- Comparatively discuss some critical policies to the transition of Vietnam from a centrally planned economy to market economy and from an agricultural and rural to an industrial and urban society.

## Course Contents

The course is structured into 3 components:

### I. General issues

1. The tale of two growth models
2. Development theories and institutional background
3. Models of government

### II. Realities in East Asian and Southeast Asian economies

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|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Japan     | 7. Indonesia   |
| 2. Korea     | 8. Philippines |
| 3. Singapore | 9. India       |
| 4. Taiwan    | 10. Myanmar    |
| 5. Malaysia  | 11. China      |
| 6. Thailand  | 12. Vietnam    |

### III. Implications

1. Lessons from development models
2. Collective wisdom

## Requirements and Grading

- Diligent and active class participation and assignment completion are compulsory. Students are expected to read all required readings before class and be ready to participate in class discussions (the length of required readings is around 1000 words for each class meeting).
- **Policy memo:** There are 12 policy memos. For each assignment, students must write a short analysis examining the general development process or a particular aspect deemed necessary by students. Word count for each memo, excluding tables with primary data, should be around 500-1000 words (as counted in Microsoft Word).
- **Group project:** Students will design a poster and a group presentation at the end of the course. The class is divided into 6 groups. Students decide their own presentation topics pertinent with topics covered in class and prepare their presentation with the consultation from instructors. Topics can be a policy issue of a chosen country contrasted with other countries, particularly other eleven countries. Word count for the group project should not exceed 5000 words (as counted in Microsoft Word). The poster should neatly fit a A0 page with all information and data about that country.
- All assignments are due by 8:20 a.m. on the specified due date. Teaching team will grade and return the assignments to students within one week from the date of submission. Should there be any concerns regarding grading, students can discuss with teaching team members during appointments.
- Please refer to the Students' Handbook for guidelines on plagiarism and other related issues.

***Course grading will be structured as follows:***

Class participation	20%
Policy memo	40%
Poster and Group Project	40%

***Readings***

1. Huynh The Du (2018), *Collections of short writings about growth models of selected countries*
2. Vietnam Program (2008), *Choosing Success: Implications from East Asian and Southeast Asian for Vietnam's future*
3. Dwight Perkins (2013), *East Asian Development: Foundations and Strategies*
4. Kim Byung-kook and Ezra Vogel (2012), *The Park Chung Hee Era*

***Note: Readings marked with (\*) are required readings.***

## COURSE OUTLINE

### **Part I: General Issues**

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#### **Class meeting #1 (02/10): Two growth models**

\*Vietnam Program (2008), *Choosing Success: Implications from East Asian and Southeast Asian for Vietnam's future*

Perkins (2013), *Chapters 2-4*

#### **Class meeting #2 (03/10): Development theories**

\*Acemoglu and Robinson (2012), *Chapter 2: Theories that don't work*

\*Huynh The Du (2013), *Why some countries fail, and some succeed: A recent new interpretation*

#### **Class meeting #3 (05/10): Pivots for growth**

\* Huynh The Du (2018), *Three pillars of development*

Huynh The Du (2013), *A Treatise on the Market Economy with Socialist Orientation in Vietnam*

GROUP POSTER DUE

### **Part II: Realities in Asian countries**

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#### **Class meeting #4 (9/10): Japan**

\*Huynh The Du (2018), *Retriving Power of the King in Japan*

Perkins (2013), *Chapter 2: Understanding East Asian growth*

POLICY MEMO 1 DUE

#### **Class meeting #5 (11/10): Korea**

\* Huynh The Du (2018), *The Road to a Wealthy and Powerful Nation of South Korea*

Huynh The Du (2018), *The Adventure of San Oc Sisters and Na's Concerns*

Hutchcroft (2013), *Examining Two Opposites Scenarios: Korean under Park Chung Hee and Phillipines under Ferdinald Marcos*, Kim Byung-kook and Ezra Vogel (2012)

Perkins (2013), *Chapter 2: Understanding East Asian Growth*

POLICY MEMO 2 DUE

#### **Class meeting #6 (12/10): Singapore**

\* Huynh The Du (2018), *Singaporean Authoritarian*

Lee Kwan Yew (2000), *From Third Word to First: The Story of Singapore*

POLICY MEMO 3 DUE

**Class meeting #7 (16/10): Taiwan**

\* Huynh The Du (2018), *The Story of Taiwan*  
Perkins (2013), *Chapter 2: Understanding East Asian Growth*  
POLICY MEMO 4 DUE

**Class meeting #8 (17/10): Malaysia**

\* Huynh The Du (2018), *The Return of the "King"*  
Perkins (2013), *Chapter 3: Success and Failures in Southeast Asian*  
POLICY MEMO 5 DUE

**Class meeting #9 (18/10): Thailand**

\*Huynh The Du (2018), *Zigzag Movement of Democratization in Thailand*  
Perkins (2013), *Chapter 3: Success and Failures in Southeast Asian*  
POLICY MEMO 6 DUE

**Class meeting #10 (19/10): Indonesia**

\* Huynh The Du (2018), *"Red" Authoritarian, "blue" Authoritarian and Mixed Democracy in Indonesia*  
Perkins (2013), *Chapter 3: Success and Failures in Southeast Asian*  
POLICY MEMO 7 DUE

**Class meeting #11 (23/10): Phillipines**

\* Huynh The Du (2018), *The Road to Serfdom of the Philippines*  
Hutchcroft (2013), *Examining Two Opposites Scenarios: Korean under Park Chung Hee and Phillipines under Ferdinald Marcos, Kim Byung-kook and Ezra Vogel (2012)*  
Perkins (2013), *Chapter 3: Success and Failures in Southeast Asian*  
POLICY MEMO 8 DUE

**Class meeting #12 (25/10): India**

\* Huynh The Du (2018), *Problems of the Indian Democratic Model*  
POLICY MEMO 9 DUE

**Class meeting #13 (26/10): Myanmar**

\* Huynh The Du (2018), *Challenges towards Myanmar Reforms*  
David Dapice (2013): *Some Reforms Issues in Myanmar*, A talk at Boston Economic Social Forum in 2013  
POLICY MEMO 10

**Class meeting #14 (30/11): China**

\* Huynh The Du (2018), *Testing the Waters: Success and Failure*

\* Huynh The Du (2018), *China at the Crossroads*

Perkins (2013), *Chapter 4: From the Centrally Planned Economy to Market Economy in Vietnam and China*

POLICY MEMO 11 DUE

**Class meeting #15 (01/11): Vietnam**

\* Huynh The Du (2018), *Vietnam's Pathway: Lost in Confusion*

Perkins (2013), *Chapter 4: From the Centrally Planned Economy to Market Economy in Vietnam and China*

Dang Phong (2008), *Vietnam Economy Thinking*

Dao Xuan Sam and Vu Quoc Tuan (2008), *Doi Moi Reforms in Vietnam: Memory and Reflections*

POLICY MEMO 12 DUE

**Class meeting #16 (06/11): Foreign Policies**

\* Huynh The Du (2018), *Relations with U.S.*

\* Huynh The Du (2018), *Relations with China*

**Part III: Implications**

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**Class meeting #17 (08/11): Lessons from the growth models**

\* Huynh The Du (2018), *Lessons from National Growth Models*

\* Huynh The Du and Pham Duy Nghia (2015), *Building a Reform Coalition in Vietnam*

**Class meeting #18 (09/11): Collective Wisdom**

\* Huynh The Du (2018), *Collective Wisdom*

**THURSDAY (15/11): PRESENTATION OF GROUP PROJECT**