COURSE	LAW 343-1 Law, Complexity, & Crisis in Asia
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (3 class hours per week)
INSTRUCTOR	Victor V. Ramraj
TERM OFFERED	Fall 2024
CLASS TIMES	See Schedule
PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES	Students who completed LAW 370 (Law & Society in Southeast Asia) at the University of Victoria in 2023-2024 are not eligible to register for this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is the role of law in responding to global complexity and crisis—e.g., pandemics, the climate crisis, rising sea levels, food insecurity, plastic pollution, and ecological collapse? What is the place of Asia both as a source of these problems but also as a potential source of solutions? On what scale, from the local to the national to the macro-regional and global, should our responses be directed? What knowledge and skills do lawyers need to confront these problems and to work across cultural, political, ideological, socio-economic, and sectoral or disciplinary divides in search of practical, realistic solutions? This course explores these questions from the perspective of Asia—with a focus on *Southeast Asia* in its broader regional context. After an introduction to Asia and Southeast Asia, in their geographic, historical, and legal-political contexts, the course then provides a survey of global complexity and crises as they manifest themselves in Asia—as well as the *misalignment* between these global challenges and the legal and institutional tools typically used to address them. The next part of the course considers theories of complexity (e.g., systems thinking, wicked problems, adaptive governance) and innovative approaches to law in Asia (e.g., legal pluralism, transnational regulation, international environmental governance) that can be deployed in response to global challenges. The last part of the course involves training for and participation in a simulation (a role-play exercise), in which students are assigned to groups to negotiate a multi-party agreement with other stakeholder groups representing different sectors, interests, and societies in Asia.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, student will be able to: *describe* in detail one or two complex global problems or crises in their Southeast Asian and regional context; *assess* and *critique* the traditional law and governance tools used to address these problems; *describe* the key features of complexity or complexity-adjacent theories and innovative approaches to law and governance as they bear on global problems, *distinguishing* them from traditional legal and governance responses; work with others students (in a role-play context) to *produce* a strategy for addressing a global challenge in its Southeast Asia context; *negotiate* (as part of a group) a plan to address the specific global challenge; and *identify*, *practice*, and *reflect on* the skills required to work with others, whose views differ significantly from one's own, to *design* a possible solution to the challenge.

METHODOLOGY

This course uses a blend of interactive lectures, class discussion, written assignments (involving research and reflection), and an extended role-play exercise (simulation) to support its learning objectives.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Students will be evaluated on the basis of: (a) a short essay (25%); a research brief (25%); participation in a role-play exercise (as part of a group) (25%); and a journal and reflective essay on the role-play exercise (25%).

2 June 2024

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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, law.studentservices@uvic.ca.