



College of Integrative Studies
Academic Year 2023/2024, Term 2

COURSE CODE: COR2603 (SMU-X)
COURSE TITLE: SINGAPORE - IMAGINING THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS
SECTION: G_

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PRE-REQUISITE/ CO-REQUISITE/ MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE COURSE(S)

There are no prerequisites for this course.

ELIGIBILITY

1. This course will be delivered as an SMU-X course. For G_, this course is delivered in partnership with the [Ray of Hope](#), an Institution of a Public Character (IPC) in Singapore.
2. This course is open to all undergraduates from SMU.
3. From cohorts AY2019/2020, this course is part of the ‘Cultures of the Modern World’ basket, and satisfies the Singapore Studies graduation requirement.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Singapore is both a city and a country contained in a small geographical space located in Southeast Asia. It houses a diverse population in terms of race, language, religion, class and nationality. It possesses no natural resources, but has a highly educated labour force. Its economy has experienced significant growth rates, particularly in the late 70s and early 80s, coupled with low unemployment.

Similar to more developed economies, Singapore now confronts a range of socioeconomic issues (e.g. rapidly ageing population, declining fertility rates, widening income inequality, rising costs of living) amidst increasing global competition, technological advancements, and security threats. At the same time, Singaporeans have become more of a people with a stronger national identity, a greater propensity to participate in the decisions that affect the destiny of the country, and a wider range of views and voices on the future direction of Singapore, the challenges it confronts, and the strategies and means by which to achieve their preferred goal(s) for themselves, their children, and the country.

COURSE GOALS

This course invites students to:

1. Critically reflect on Singapore's post-independence history, and its impact on Singapore's future development trajectories;
2. Contemplate the kind of Singapore they envision for the future.
3. Understand the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that can help or hinder Singapore achieving their vision(s) for the country.
4. Deliberate upon the range and nature of strategies and policies that will enable Singapore to achieve their vision(s) for the country.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students should be:

1. Well-informed individuals who are able to develop new frameworks and perspectives in understanding different facets of Singapore society and life in Singapore;
2. Critical and knowledgeable individuals with a good grasp of the issues and challenges confronting Singapore;
3. Thinking and active individuals who are able to harness the acquired knowledge and skills to develop strategies and policies that would be beneficial to all Singaporeans in the Singapore they envision for the future.

COURSE OUTLINE

This course aims to encourage undergraduates - as future leaders - to reflect on Singapore's post-independence history, imagine the kind of Singapore they would like to co-create for the future, and deliberate on what it takes to achieve the vision(s) they have for Singapore.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Part I: Singapore in the World

The topic will cover Singapore's exceptional place in the region and the world from a variety of perspectives. It will analyze the city-state's ties in the region and with the wider world post-1965. It will examine how Singapore's domestic priorities and foreign policy imperatives have influenced its relationships with other countries and how these partners' strategic interests influence Singapore's economic and social transformation. It will address the place of Singapore in the world today and how that world has shaped through ideas, trade and cultural links Singapore's self-image and identity. This seminar will also explore how Singapore has used international law to advance its national interests with particular regions and countries, including Singapore's role in select international organizations.

Part II: Economic Issues

Part II will provide a select overview of Singapore's economic development. The following is a non-exhaustive range of the salient issues: the changing labour force profile, and new areas of growth against an ageing population. Public finance in relation to taxation, workfare, wage support, and social transfers is also touched on to understand how increasing income inequality have influenced the government's budgetary approach over the years, and the extent in which government transfers has affected the Gini coefficient. Rising life expectancies, coupled with rapid economic growth, have left many older Singaporeans with inadequate retirement savings for their old age and healthcare needs.

Part III: Diversity, Social Integration and the Urban Environment

Social integration is a wide-ranging topic in Singapore. The focus address aspects of citizenship and community development. We will consider Singapore's migratory past and the challenges of new citizenship post-1965. This seminar will also encourage an appreciation of how urban spaces in Singapore facilitate and advance integration at a community and national level.

Part IV: Security and Threats

This part focuses on the security of Singapore and risks that threaten the Singaporean way of life. It will elaborate on the changing meanings of security in the Singapore context, and highlights traditional and non-traditional threats faced by Singapore in the past 50 years. This part illustrates how these threats have been managed and considers potential risks, as well as how Singapore can cope with them as its national interests evolve over time.

Part V: Population Issues

This part highlights the key patterns and consequences of population change in Singapore. Why is the recent population growth in Singapore at its slowest pace in a decade? Why are Singapore citizens choosing not to have more children? What happens when a quarter of the population is above the age of 60? What does population ageing mean for other segments of society and their livelihoods? Does an influx of migrants into Singapore translate into lesser job opportunities for citizens? Guided by these broad queries, this seminar examines the structures of human population and the processes of change in relation to broad socio-economic, cultural and political conditions.

Part VI: Aspirations and Identity

The final part explores narratives about and methods to promote the 'ideal' Singapore from the perspectives of policymakers and ordinary citizens. It explores select but current developments of concern in Singapore that implicate ordinary citizens. These developments signal a participatory process to express their aspirations, and to contribute to shaping Singapore's future. This part explores evolving discourses on multiculturalism that have been complicated by, for instance, mixed race individuals, interracial marriages, and reactions to racialised policies. Multiculturalism is an appropriate conclusion to this course because it shows the transitional nature of this city-state.

COURSE FORMAT

1. Face to face classes will take place every Wednesday at SOSS/CIS Seminar Room ____ (1900 hours).
2. Your attendance and participation in classes will contribute towards your class participation marks. Mere attendance will not contribute towards class participation.
3. This course is delivered in partnership with the Ray of Hope. The group project will involve a topic that concerns Parts I-VI of the course syllabus. Details will be released during the first seminar. You are encouraged to take notes during this seminar to note the partner's expectations for the Week 13 presentation. To avoid doubt, the SMU instructor for this module will grade the Week 13 presentation.

ASSESSMENT MODE

1. The course is assessed on a **Pass/Fail** grading scheme.
2. The 100% Continual Assessment is as follows:
 - a. Class Participation – 10%
 - b. Brief Opinion Paper – 20%
 - c. Reflection Journal – 20%
 - d. Group Project – 50%
3. **Class Participation (10%)** – You are encouraged to participate actively in class.
4. **Brief Opinion Paper (20%)** – Students will work independently to submit an opinion paper (maximum 600 words) on a selected topic. The details of this assignment will be released at a later date. This submission date is TBD at 5pm.
5. **Reflection Journal (20%)** – Students will write an end of course journal entry (maximum 600 words) that will reflect on the learning journey during this SMU-X course. The submission date is TBD at 5pm.
6. **Group Project (50%)** – Students will work in groups (5 students per group) to submit a group project. The details of this assignment will be released during the semester. However, the key deliverables are the group project presentation on TBD (7pm) and a two-page Executive Summary (maximum 1,200 words) submission on TBD at 5pm, respectively.

A one-page mid-term review of the group project is due on TBD at 5pm. Consultation slots for guidance on the group project will be announced at a later date.

DEADLINES

Your milestones are summarised as follows:

Date	MILESTONE
TBD	BRIEF OPINION PAPER (INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSION)
TBD	1-PAGE MID-TERM REVIEW (FOR WEEK 13)
TBD	GROUP PRESENTATIONS
TBD	2-PAGE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (FOR WEEK 13)
TBD	REFLECTION JOURNAL (INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSION)

CLASS TIMETABLE (please consult eLearn for an updated outline before Term 2 starts)

Week	Date	Activity	NOTES
1	TBD	PROJECT DEMO	PROJECT DEMONSTRATION BY RAY OF HOPE
2	TBD	CONTENT 1	SINGAPORE IN THE WORLD
3	TBD	PARTNER ORG CONSULTATION	20 MIN SLOTS PER GROUP (FOR GROUP PROJECT)
4	TBD	CONTENT 2	ECONOMIC ISSUES IN SINGAPORE
5	TBD	GROUP CONSULTATIONS	20 MIN SLOTS PER GROUP WITH DR SEAH
6	TBD	CONTENT 3	DIVERSITY, SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT
7	TBD	CONTENT 4	SECURITY AND THREATS
8	TBD	RECESS WEEK	ONE PAGE MID-TERM REVIEW OF GROUP PROJECT
9	TBD	PARTNER ORG CONSULTATION	20 MIN SLOTS PER GROUP (FOR GROUP PROJECT)
10	TBD	CONTENT 5	POPULATION ISSUES IN SINGAPORE
11	TBD	GROUP CONSULTATIONS	20 MIN SLOTS PER GROUP WITH DR SEAH
12	TBD	CONTENT 6	ASPIRATIONS AND IDENTITIES
13	TBD	FINAL PRESENTATIONS	3 HOURS

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All written assignments are to be submitted with a total word count and a written anti-plagiarism declaration. There is a policy of zero tolerance for late submission (subject to exigencies) and for non-submission of assignments. This declaration must be included in your submissions:

“By submitting this paper, I declare that this paper is my original work and solely done by me. All information obtained from other sources has been quoted or paraphrased. These sources have been cited and referenced accordingly. I understand that the violations of academic integrity will be dealt with severely. I declare that I have abided by SMU’s Code of Academic Integrity.”

SMU LIBRARIES - WHERE CAN I GET HELP FOR THIS COURSE (READINGS / ASSIGNMENTS)?

a) Know your Librarians

- Speak with your [Librarians](#) as they offer guidance and research consultations on how to find credible resources, do proper citations and many other helpful topics.
URL: <https://library.smu.edu.sg/services/services-undergraduate-students>

b) Self-Learn (elearn courses)

- Learn how to create in-text citations, bibliographies or reference list in the [Avoiding Plagiarism through the APA Citation](#) course.
- Learn how to undertake academic research systematically and effectively, scope and create a research question in [The Research Process](#) course.

c) General Enquiries

Email: library@smu.edu.sg

Chat: [Ask Library](#)

Digital Library: library.smu.edu.sg

ACCESSIBILITY

SMU strives to make learning experiences accessible for all. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers due to disability, please contact me immediately. You are also welcome to contact SMU's disability services team if you have questions or concerns about academic provisions at DSS@smu.edu.sg. Please note that the accessible tables in our seminar room should remain available for students who require them.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING (EPTL)

As part of emergency preparedness, Instructors may conduct lessons online during the semester. The class schedule will be identical to the face-to-face class timetable, unless otherwise stated.

COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

Please note that only copyright holders are entitled to reproduce their work, publish their work, perform their work in public, communicate their work to the public and make an adaptation of their work. Hence, making course materials (owned by the faculty) available for sale or posting such works on websites for gain, is strictly prohibited. Disciplinary action will be taken against those who infringe copyright.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

The following is a sample of readings that students might consult for this course. It is not an exhaustive list. This list indicates the range of topics that this course touches on.

Specific readings or materials will be given before class.

1. Chan, David, ed., (2015) *50 Years of Social Issues in Singapore*. Singapore: World Scientific.
2. Chan, David, ed. (2017) *Social futures of Singapore society*. Singapore: World Scientific.
3. Chua, Mui Hoong, ed., (2015) *SG100? : leading thinkers envision Singapore in 2065*. Singapore: Straits Times Press.
4. Fedo, David (2012). *Singapore: Insights from the Inside*. Singapore: Ethos Books.
5. Heng, Chye Kiang, ed., (2016) *50 Years of Urban Planning in Singapore*. Singapore: World Scientific.
6. Ibrahim, Zuraidah, Han, Fook Kwang, Lin, Rachel, Chan, Robin, Chua, Mui Hoong, Lim, Lydia, and Low, Ignatius (2011). *Lee Kuan Yew: Hard truths to keep Singapore going*. Singapore : Straits Times Press.
7. Kausikan, Bilahari, (2017) *Singapore is not an island : views on Singapore foreign policy*. Singapore: Straits Times Press.
8. Krishnadas, Devadas (2014). *Sensing Singapore: Reflections in a Time of Change*. Singapore: Ethos Books.
9. Lee, Kuan Yew (2015). *The Singapore Story: Memoirs of Lee Kuan Yew*. Singapore: Marshall Cavendish Editions.
10. Pakir, Sheila and Singh, Malminderjit, eds. (2017) *The birthday book 2017 : what should we never forget?* Singapore: Ethos Books.
11. Paul, Anju Mary, ed., (2017) *Local encounters in a global city : Singapore stories*. Singapore: Ethos Books.
12. Quah, Euston, ed., (2015) *Singapore 2065 : leading insights on economy and environment from 50 Singapore icons and beyond*. Singapore: World Scientific.
13. Yap, Mui Teng and Gee, Christopher, eds. (2014) *Population Outcomes: Singapore 2050*. Singapore: Institute of Policy Studies.