This course will focus on one key question: What factors contribute to the transformation of developing Asian nations into developed economies? In this course, we will:

- explore the historic transformation of various societies from undeveloped (and sometimes tribal) civilizations into economically advanced nations,
- review the economic transformation of Singapore and Malaysia and distinguish different paths each country has taken since their independence, and
- address the current political and economic landscape of two emerging economies - China and India

Students will be able to identify:

- the characteristics of a developed economy, 
- the steps necessarily for transformation to begin, and
- the economic and political consequences of such transformation.

Particular attention will be paid to successes and failures of government policies in promoting economic growth, and the role of culture in shaping such policies. Economic theories will be utilized to analyze the reasons for success of certain countries and the stagnation of others. The role of the market system as well as legal factors will be studied in addressing the similarities and differences among such economies.