

ANTH2450 PEOPLES AND CULTURES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Tue, 3.30-5.15

Venue: MMW705

Instructor: Dr. FAMING, Manynooch

Contact: nychma@cuhk.edu.hk

Office Hour: By appointment

TA: Sun Rui (sunrui@link.cuhk.edu.hk)

Tutorials: Tue. 5.30-6.15 (MMW705); TBA: Tue. 5.30-6.15 (MMW715)

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the social and cultural complexity of Southeast Asia (SEA) region. This can be mapped as a part on mainland Southeast Asia includes the countries of Burma/Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Singapore, and Malaysia. Island Southeast Asia includes Indonesia, The Philippines, Brunei, and Timor-Leste. The course is taught as a seminar and discussions will organized around assigned readings and guest speakers from individual countries. The seminar will begin with historical background of the region, readings on the history of anthropology in the region, before moving onto ethnographic accounts of individual countries. These cover belief systems, marriage and family, industrialization and urbanization, politics and government, and economic change. In addition to providing a broad and comparative survey of “traditional” Southeast Asia, the course will place special emphasis on the intellectual and practical challenges associated with modernization and development, highlighting the ways different Southeast Asian nations contend with the forces of globalization.

The principle readings are drawn from a multidisciplinary range of fields covering anthropology, art, economics, geography, history, literature, and political science. No prior knowledge of Southeast Asia is expected.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Gain better understandings on Southeast Asia through the individual country case
2. Develop comparative skills in studying peoples and cultures of each country in SEA
3. Apply socio-cultural anthropology perspective to understand a specific group(s) of peoples and cultures in SEA

Course Requirements

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| a. Participation | 10% |
| b. Tutorial discussions | 20% |
| c. Three short field visit reflections | 30% |
| d. One Final Essay | 40% |

Assessment Details

A. Class Participation 10%

Participate in field visits (3 Feb., 3 Mar., and 24 Mar. 2019); Having done the readings and brought them to class; Share your thoughts and questions in class and our guest speakers.

B. Tutorial Participation (20%)

There are 6 tutorial sessions; the rest 4 tutorials will be re-arranged with field visits. Students will sign up for the topic you are interested in at the 2nd tutorial (Week 3). Students can form a small group of 2-3, who will present the discussion on your chosen topic (i.e., based on assigned readings). Prompt attendance at each tutorial meeting, informed participation, and completion of all assigned readings. Every student is expected to be an active member in class and in contributing to a meaningful learning experience. Listening carefully to others, raising relevant questions, posing alternative interpretations, bringing in outside material to enrich class discussion via conference or other means are just some of the way to do so. How ready and conscientious you are in class will directly affect how much the whole class could gain from the course.

C. Three field visit Reflections (30%) Due: 12 Feb., 12 Mar and 2 Apr., 2019.

Student will write a short reflection (or about between 500-800 words) of what you have learned from observing, talking or interacting with our hosts (i.e., Viet Kieu in Hong Kong, Buddhism of mainland Southeast Asia, and a day simple day off of an Indonesian/Filipina helper) during the visits. Students may include photos from the visit. ***This should be submitted before 3.30pm on the due date.***

D. Final Essay 40% Due: April 16, 2019

Students will write a 10-13 page final paper (or about between 1,500-2,000 words) that draws on careful reading of and conversation with class themes and texts to critically analyze and advance discussions on an issue or topic in a specific country or comparing peoples and cultures of two neighbouring countries in SEA.

If you are unsure where to begin or feel more challenged, you may discuss, for example,

“Should SEA be studied as a geographical region or as a cultural zone or as mosaic of cultural groups? Why so?”

Use the readings in the course to help you analyze your impressions and thoughts. Do approach me and our TA for help or suggestions.

E. Notes on submission

Note 1: Both reflection and final essay must submit a soft copy to VeriGuide CUHK.

Note 2: Please name your assignment file **ANTH2450 or GENA2332 Reflection (1 or 2 or 3)/Final Paper Last name First name**, and your VeriGuide receipt file **ANTH2450 or GENA2332 VeriGuide Last name First name**.

Note 3: Save your final paper in **Word format**, and scan your signed VeriGuide receipt into PDF format. Save them as two separate files. Email the VeriGuide receipt to nychma@cuhk.edu.hk

Course Schedule

Week 1 8 Jan. Introduction: Course Overview

M.C. Ricklefs et al. 2010. Ch. 14: Southeast Asia Today, in *A New History of Southeast Asia*, edited by M.C. Ricklefs, Bruce Lockhart, Albert Lau, Portia Reyes and Mairii Aung-Thwin. Houndsmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan. pp: 461-471.

Week 2 15 Jan. Brief History of SEA as Region

O.W. Wolters. 1982. Chapter 1&2 in *History, Culture and Region in Southeast Asian Perspectives*. Singapore: ISEAS.

Week 3 22 Jan Mainland Southeast Asia Peninsula

Charles F Keyes. 1977. Ch. 2: Development of Theravada Buddhist Civilization in Mainland Southeast Asia, in *The golden peninsula: culture and adaptation in mainland Southeast Asia*, New York: Macmillan.
Andrew Turton. 2000. Ch. 1: Introduction to Civility and Savagery, in *Civility and Savagery: Social Identity in Tai States*, edited by Andrew Turton. Richmond, Surrey: Curzon Press, pp:3-32.

Week 4 29 Jan Vietnam: Trauma after the American War

Kirsten W. Endres. 2008. "Fate, Memory, and the Postcolonial Construction of the Self: The Life-Narrative of a Vietnamese Spirit Medium," *Journal of Vietnamese Studies*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (Summer 2008), pp. 34-65

Guests: Ms. Farah, philanthropist and owner of *Soho Banh Mi*, and Pastor Timothy, a veteran philanthropist for homeless people in HK

Optional reading:

Keith W. Taylor. 1998. "Surface Orientation in Vietnam: Beyond Histories of Nation and Region," *Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 57, No. 4 (Nov., 1998), pp. 949-978.

Christopher E. Goscha. 2012. "Ch. 3: Annamese Revolutionaries between Indochina and Vietnam" in *Going Indochinese: Contesting Concepts of Space and Place in French Indochina*, Copenhagen S, Denmark: NIAS Press.

Ch. 34: Vietnam after 1975: From Collectivism to Market Leninism, in *The emergence of modern Southeast Asia: a new history*, edited by Owen, Norman G. (ed.). 2005. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

VDO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LD54rG-SnDM> (*Boat People*, HK film production, 1982)

**1st Field Visit: 3 Feb. 2019 (12.30-2pm),
Viet Kieu in Hong Kong at St. Joseph Church, Kowloon Bay.**

Week 5 5 Feb. Chinese New Year (No Class, No Tutorial)

Week 6 12 Feb. 29 Jan. Thailand: Monarchy and Politics

Andrew Walker. 2010. "Imagining a new Mandala in mainland Southeast Asia,"
<http://www.newmandala.org/imagining-a-new-mandala-in-mainland-southeast-asia/>

M.R. Sukhumbhand Paribatra. 2003. "Some Reflections on the Thai Monarchy," *Southeast Asian Affairs*, (2003), 291-309

Optional readings:

Ch. 32: Kingdom of Thailand, in *The emergence of modern Southeast Asia: a new history*, edited by Owen, Norman G. (ed.). 2005. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

Veerayouth Kachoochat and Kevin Hewison. 2016. "Introduction: Understanding Thailand's Politics," *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, Vol. 46, No. 3, 371-381.

Week 7 19 Feb. Myanmar/Burma: the Struggles of Ethnic Minorities

- Bertil Lintner. 2003. "Myanmar/Burma", in *Ethnicity in Asia*, edited by Colin Mckerras. London: RoutledgeCurzon, pp: 174-193.
- Ferguson, J. M., 2014. Rock Your Religion: Shan Buddhist Ritual and Stage-Show Revelry in a Contested Zonoe at the Thai-Burma Border. In: J. A. Marston, ed. *Ethnicity, Borders, and the Grassroots Interface with the State: Studies on Southeast Asia in honor of Charles F. Keyes*. Chiangmai: Silkworm Books, pp. 45-64.

Optional readings:

- Gravers, M., ed., 2007. *Exploring Ethnic Diveristy in Burma*. Copenhagen: NIAS Press. (Introduction; Chs. by T.Michio, S.Dudley and M.Gravers)
- Meehan, P., 2016. The Continuation of War by Other Means: An Anatomy of the Palaung Ceasefire in Northern Shan State. In: M. Sadan, ed. *War and Peace in the Borderlands of Myanmar: The Kachin Ceasefire 1994-2011*. Copenhagen: NIAS Press, pp. 361-387.

Week 8 26 Feb. Laos and Cambodia cultures and societies

- Grant Evans. 2000. "Tai-Ization: Ethnic Change in Northern Indo-China," in *Civility and Savagery: Social Identity in Tai States*, edited by Andrew Turton. Richmond, Surrey: Curzon Press, pp: 263-290.
- Jan Ovensen and Ing-Britt Trankell. 2010. "Ch. 5: Indigenous practitioners: Healers, Spirit Mediums and Magic Monks," in *Cambodians and their Doctors: A Medical Anthropology of Colonial and Post-Colonial Cambodia*, Copenhagen S, Denmark: NIAS Press.

VDO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-MmZUvMZWI&fbclid=IwAR11MF9QYZj-hmL6GT7x1XZ8TZbtS8GIaxEGfIRA6meJdd25kQNYhq14ogl> (*The disappearance of Sombath Somphone*, 2018)

**2nd Field Visit: 3 Mar. 2019, (10am-1pm):
Mainland Southeast Asian Buddhism at Wat Tai Wo, Tai Wo MTR.**

Week 9 5 Mar. Malaysia and Singapore

- Ong, Aihwa. 1995. State versus Islam: Malay families, women's bodies and the body politic in Malaysia. In *Bewitching Women, Pious Men: Gender and Body Politics in Southeast Asia*, edited by Aihwa Ong and Michael Peletz. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Chua Beng Huat. 2003. "Singapore: Multiracial Harmony as public good", in *Ethnicity in Asia*, edited by Colin Mckerras. London: RoutledgeCurzon, pp: 101-107

Optional readings:

- Aihwa Ong. 2007. "Neoliberalism as a Mobile Technology," *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, New Series, Vol. 32, No. 1 (Jan., 2007), pp. 3-8
- Chua Beng Huat. 2011. "Singapore as a Model Planning Innovations, Knowledge Expats", in *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global*, edited by Ananya Roy and Aihwa Ong. UK: Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 29-54.
- Ch. 29: Malaysia since 1957, in *The emergence of modern Southeast Asia: a new history*, edited by Owen, Norman G. (ed.). 2005. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
- Furlow, Christopher. 2009. "Malaysian Modernities: Cultural Politics and the Construction of Muslim Technoscientific Identities, *Anthropological Quarterly*, Winter 2009, Vol. 82(1), pp: 197-228.

Week 10 12 Mar. Indonesia: Islamic State in Reality

- Anthony Reid. 2012. "Indonesia's new prominence in the world," in *Indonesia Rising: The Repositioning of Asia's Third Giant*, edited by Anthony Reid. Singapore: ISEAS.
- Felicia Hughes-Freeland. 1998. "Performance and Gender in Javanese Palace Tradition," in *Male and Females in Developing Southeast Asia*, edited by Wazir Jahan Karim. Oxford/Washington D. C. USA: Berg Publishers.

Optional readings:

- Ch. 31: Indonesia: The First Fifty Years, in *The emergence of modern Southeast Asia: a new history*, edited by Owen, Norman G. (ed.). 2005. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

Week 11 19 Mar. The Philippines: Socio-economic bread whiner

Rodolfo C. Severino. 2011. "Ch. 2: The Colonial Legacy," in *Where in the World is the Philippines?: Debating its National Territory*. Singapore: ISEAS.

M. Scott Solomon. 2009. "State-led Migration, Democratic, Legitimacy, and Deterritorialization: The Philippines's labor export model", *European Journal of East Asian Studies*, 8.2 (2009) 275-300.

Optional reading:

Ch. 33: The Philippines since 1972, in *The emergence of modern Southeast Asia: a new history*, edited by Owen, Norman G. (ed.). 2005. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

**3rd Field Visit: 24 Mar. 2019 (11am-1pm):
Option 1: Indonesian helpers in Causeway Bay;
Option 2: Filipinos helpers in Central**

Week 12 26 Mar. Brunei and Timor-Leste: Small and Beautiful

"Prologue: Brunei Versus Borneo" (pp: 1-3) and "Tradition as an Instrument for Managing Society" (pp: 258-260), in *Brunei: From the age of commerce to the 21st century* by Marie-Sybille de Vienne (2015); translated by Emilia Lanier. Singapore: NUS Press in Associate with IRASEC.

McGregor, Andrew; Skeaff, Laura; Bevan, Marianne. 2012. "Overcoming Secularism? Catholic development geographies in Timor-Leste", *Third World Quarterly*, 01 July 2012, Vol. 33, pp: 1129-1146.

Optional Reading:

Fanselow, Frank. 2014. "The Anthropology of the state and the state of anthropology in Brunei", *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, 45(1), pp: 90-112 February 2014.

Week 13 2 Apr. Reading Week (No Class, No Tutorials)

Week 14 9 Apr. Conclusion: ASEAN as one SEA? (Cooking Class)

Amitav Acharya. 2012. "Ch. 7: Constructing "One Southeast Asia" in *The Making of Southeast Asia: International Relations of a Region*, Singapore: ISEAS.