

ANTH2450/GENA2332 PEOPLES AND CULTURES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Thursdays, 10.30-12.15

Venue: UCA 104

Instructor: Dr. FAMING, Manynooch

Contact: nychma@cuhk.edu.hk

Office Hour: By appointment

TA/RA: Aileen del Rosario-Rodilla (email: aileendr.rondilla@link.cuhk.edu.hk)

Tutorials: Thur. 12.30-1.15 (UCA 104); Fri. 10.30-11.15 (T.C. Cheng 207).

Course Description

This course introduces students to the social and cultural complexity of Southeast Asia (SEA) region. This can be mapped as mainland and island Southeast Asia. The mainland SEA includes the countries of Burma/Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Malaysia while the island SEA includes Indonesia, The Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, and Timor-Leste. The course conducts in a form of seminar. The class discussions will organized around selected assigned readings and guest speakers from selected individual countries. The seminar will begin with historical background before moving onto case studies. These cover belief systems, family, politics, development and economic change. In addition to providing a broad and comparative exploration of “traditional” Southeast Asia, the course will place special emphasis on nation-building through modernization and development, highlighting the ways different Southeast Asian nations contend with the forces of globalization.

The readings are drawn from a multidisciplinary range of fields covering anthropology, art, economics, geography, history, literature, and political science.

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. Class Participation | 15% |
| b. Three field visit reflections | 45% |
| c. One Group Final Essay | 40% |

Assessment Details

A. Class Participation 15%

Having done the readings, keeping notes to share/discuss/raise to the class; Share your thoughts and questions in class. Please note that attendances do not count as participations.

B. Three field visit Reflections 45% (3x15%)

Student will write a short reflection (or about between 800 and 1,000 words, excluding references) of what you have learned from observing, talking or interacting with our hosts (i.e., Buddhism of mainland Southeast Asia, and a simple day off of an Indonesian/Filipina helpers or shop owners/keepers) during the visits. Students may include photos from the visit. ***This should be submitted by 5pm on the due date. Due: 17 Feb., 10 Mar and 24 Mar., 2022.***

C. Group Final Essay 40%

Students will form a group of 2 to write a final paper (between 2,000 and 3,000 words, excluding references) that draws on careful reading and/or conversations with peoples from SEA. The group may also use class themes and texts to critically analyse and advance discussions on an issue or topic in a specific country or comparing peoples and cultures of two neighbouring countries in SEA. Due: **April 16, 2022 by 5pm.**

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.

D. Notes on submission

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

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

Note 3: Save your all written assignments in **Word format**, and scan your signed VeriGuide receipt into PDF format. Save them as two separate files. Upload the VeriGuide receipt to the blackboard folders.

Note 4: There is a late submission penalty, especially the group final essay. One mark deduction per day, passing the due date.

Course Schedule

Week 1 Jan. 13: Introduction: Course Overview and Brief History of SEA as a Region

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

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 Maitrii Aung-Thwin. Houndsmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan. pp: 461-471.

Other reading:

Acharya, Amitav. 1999. "Imagined Proximities: The making and unmaking of Southeast Asia as a Region," *Southeast Asian Journal of Social Science*, Vol. 27, No. 1 (1999): 55-76.

Week 2 Jan. 20: Mainland Southeast Asia Peninsula

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.

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 Walker. 2010. "Imagining a new Mandala in mainland Southeast Asia,"

<http://www.newmandala.org/imagining-a-new-mandala-in-mainland-southeast-asia/>

Week 3 Jan. 27: Thailand: Monarchy and Politics

Winichakul, T. (2000). The Quest for "Siwilai": A Geographical Discourse of Civilizational Thinking in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth-Century Siam. *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 59(3), 528-549. doi:10.1017/S0021911800014327

Winichakul, T. (2016). Thailand's Hyper-royalism: Its Past Success and Present Predicament. In T. Winichakul (Author), *Thailand's Hyper-royalism: Its Past Success and Present Predicament* (pp. 1-36). ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute.

Other readings:

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

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.

Documentary: *Soul of a Nation* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ih9cgmYY5M>).

Week 4 Feb. 3: CNY Holiday (No Class, No Tutorials)

Week 5 Feb. 10: 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.

Other readings:

Biard, Ian. 2010. "Different views of history: Shades of irredentism along the Lao-Cambodia border," *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, 41(2), pp. 187-213.

Milton, Osborne. 1973. "King-making in Cambodia: From Sisowath to Sihanouk," *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, Vol. 4, No. 2 (Sept. 1973), pp. 169-185.

Milton, Osborne. 2007. "Cambodia: The endgame of politics?" *Journal of Southeast Asian Affairs*, (2007), pp. 117-132.

**1st Field Visit: 13 Feb. 2022, (10am-1pm):
Theravada Buddhist Temple at Wat Tai Wo, Tai Wo MTR**

Week 6 Feb. 17: Vietnam: Trauma after the American War

Guest Speaker: Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Anh from the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts

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

Other readings:

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.

Documentary: RTHK, Seeking Haven-- [electronic Resource] : Vietnamese People in Hong Kong. Hong Kong: 2015. Hong Kong Connection ; [2015-1029].

Week 7 Feb. 24: Myanmar/Burma: the Struggles of Ethnic Minorities

Guest speaker: Eugene Sein, Impact Myanmar (via Zoom)

Lintner, Bertil. 2003. "Myanmar/Burma", in *Ethnicity in Asia*, edited by Colin Mckerras. London: RoutledgeCurzon, pp: 174-193.

Khin Zaw Win. 2019. "Twin authoritarianism in Myanmar," *New Mandala*, 13 Sep 2019.

<https://www.newmandala.org/twin-authoritarianisms/>

Other readings:

Lintner, Bertil. 2018. "Trouble ahead, trouble behind for Myanmar," *Asia Times*, 28 Dec. 2018.

https://www.asiatimes.com/2018/12/article/trouble-ahead-trouble-behind-for-myanmar/?_=3508727

Farrelly, Nicholas. 2018. "Assessing the Rohingya Crisis," *New Mandala*, 13 Jun 2018.

<https://www.newmandala.org/assessing-rohingya-crisis/>

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.

Week 8 Mar. 3: Indonesia: Islamic State in Reality(I)

Geertz, Clifford, 1973. Ch. 6: Ritual and social change: A Javanese example, and Ch. 7: "Inernal conversaions" in Contemporary Bali, in *The Interpretation of Cultures* [electronic Resource] : Selected Essays.

Other 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.

Blackwood, Evelyn. 2006. "Ch. 21 Tombois in West Sumatra: Constructing Masculinity and Erotic Desire," in *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell, Pp. 411-434

Film/Documentary Communism, Suharto, Cold War and people

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLT6G8FD3E4> (Documentary: 40 years of silence: An Indonesia tragedy)

**2nd Field Visit: 6 Mar. 2020 (11am-1pm):
Victoria Park, Causeway Bay**

Week 9 Mar. 10: Malaysia: Islamic State in Reality (II)

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.

Otheor 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

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 Mar. 17: The Philippines: Socio-economic bread winner

Guest speaker: Ms. Aileen del Rosario-Rodilla

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.

Chang, Kimberly, and Lily Ling. 2000. Globalization and its Intimate Other: Filipina domestic workers in Hong Kong. In *Gender and Global Restructuring: Sightings, sites and resistances*. Marianne H. Marchand and Anne Sisson Runyan, eds. London and New York : Routledge.

Other readings:

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.

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

Documentary: Lin, Diana., TVB News Public Affairs Production, and Television Broadcasts Limited. *A Reluctant Choice*. Hong Kong: Television Broadcasts, 2003. Print. Pearl Report ; [2003-0504].

**3rd Field Visit: 20 Mar. 2020, (10am-1pm):
Filipinos community, World Wide House, Central**

Week 11 Mar. 24: Small and Beautiful Singapore, Brunei and Timor-Leste

Chua Beng Huat. 2003. "Singapore: Multiracial Harmony as public good", in *Ethnicity in Asia*, edited by Colin Mckerras. London: RoutledgeCurzon, pp: 101-107

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.

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.

Other Readings:

"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.

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.

Week 12 Mar. 31: ASEAN as one SEA?

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

Week 13 Apr. 7: READING WEEK (No Class, No Tutorials)

Week 14 Apr. 14: Conclusion: Potluck Party and Cooking Class