

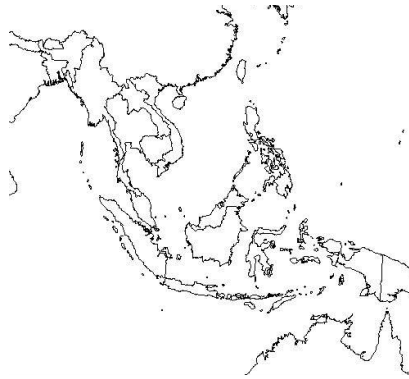
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INTRODUCTION TO SOUTHEAST ASIA

MW 12:20–1:10

Sections: F 12:20–1:10 and 1:25–2:40 RCK 127



This course introduces key questions in the study of Southeast Asia (Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and its diasporas. It combines a rigorous introduction to Southeast Asian historical, religious, literary, visual, and political traditions and the ways in which scholars have thought about them with the opportunity for students to develop small-scale research projects. Themes to be discussed include notions of power, gender, political conflict, colonialism, nationalism, sexuality, violence, the global, and forms of belief and belonging.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Week I. Introduction

Wednesday, January 21 Introduction

PART 1: Early Forms of Governance, Understandings of Power, and Forms of Belief

II. Locating Southeast Asia

Monday, January 26 In-class screening: “Ladies and Gentlemen, Your Flight to Southeast Asia” (Gabriel Halili, 2014, 2 min)

Reading: Norman G. Owen, “Places and Peoples,” *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia*, pp. 1–15.

Wednesday, January 28 **Kingdoms and Kings:** Angkor

Film clips: *Mysteries of Asia*, 2000.

George Coedes, "Personal Cults," *Angkor: An Introduction*.

Sheldon Pollock, "Introduction," *Language of the Gods*.

Recommended reading: Ashley Thompson, "Performative Realities: Nobody's Possession."

III. Kingdoms and Kings: Buddhism

February 2 Donald Swearer, "Buddhism as Civil Religion," *The Buddhist World of Southeast Asia*, (63–105).

February 4 Justin McDaniel, "Thai Buddhism," *Thai Digital Monastery*, available from http://tdm.sas.upenn.edu/Thai_Buddhism.html

Benedict Anderson *The Fate of Rural Hell: Asceticism and Desire in Buddhist Thailand* (selection)

IV. Kingdoms and Kings: Early Indonesia

February 9 Srivijaya O.W. Wolters "Studying Srivijaya" / **mini library session**

February 11 Islam J.D. Legge "The Influence of Islam"

Ronit Ricci, "Islamic Literary Networks in South and Southeast Asia"

The Book of One Thousand Questions (excerpt)

Recommended reading: Q & A with Ronit Ricci , <http://www.ssrc.org/features/view/islam-translated-idrf-book-exchange/>

J.D. Legge, "The Writing of Southeast Asian History," *The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia*.

Oliver Wolters, " Southeast Asia as a Southeast Asian Field of Study," *Early Southeast Asia: Selected Essays*.

V. Languages of Southeast Asia

February 16 **February Break: No Class**

February 18 Okki Kurniawan

Readings: *Ethnologue*, <http://www.ethnologue.com/region/SEA>

VI. Guest Lecture and Museum Visit: Early Southeast Asia

February 23 **Museum session (to be confirmed)**

February 25 **Guest appearance, Professor Keith Taylor, Vietnamese Studies, Department of Asian Studies**

Reading: TBA

PART 2: Colonial Rule/ Postcolonial Nationalisms

VII. Anti / Colonial Histories (Burma)

March 2 George Orwell, *Burmese Days*

Juergen Lieskounig, "The Power of Distortion: George Orwell's *Burmese Days*"

March 4 George Orwell, *Burmese Days*

Praseeda Gopinath, "An Orphaned Manliness: The Pukka Sahib and the End of Empire in *A Passage to India* and *Burmese Days*"

VIII. Anti / Colonial Histories: The Malayan Emergency

March 9 Suyin Han, *And the Rain My Drink*

March 11 Suyin Han, *And the Rain My Drink*

Fiona Lee, “Epistemological Checkpoint: Fictionalizing the Malayan Emergency”

MIDTERM PAPERS (5 pages) DUE MARCH 16

IX. Decolonization / Postcolonial Nationalisms

March 16 **Cambodia** Film, Rithy Panh, *The Missing Picture* (2013)

Reading: David Chandler, “The Tragedy of Cambodian History Revisited”

Ashley Thompson, “Forgetting to Remember, Again: On Curatorial Practice and “Cambodian Art” in the Wake of Genocide”

Recommended reading: Dith Pran, *Children of Cambodia’s Killing Fields: Memoirs by Survivors* (selection)

March 18 **Indonesia** Pramoedya Ananta Toer, short stories

PART 3: Trade, Transnationalism, Postcolonial Modernities

X. Trade, Transnationalism, Modernization: Chinese in Southeast Asia

March 23 Wasana Wongsurawat, “From Yaowaraj to Plabplachai: The Thai State and Ethnic Chinese in Thailand during the Cold War”

Wang Gungwu, *The Chinese Overseas: From Earthbound China to the Quest for Autonomy* (selection)

March 25 Phillip Kuhn, *Chinese Among Others* (selection)

XI. Spring Break

March 30 **No Class**

April 1 **No Class**

XII. Post / War: “Hollywood Hanoi” / Philippines

April 6 Film: *Apocalypse Now* (Francis Ford Coppola, 1979)

Readings: Michael Hunt, *Vietnam War Reader: A Documentary History from American and Vietnamese Perspectives*, Chapter 5 “The View from the Ground, 1965–71.” (available online through library)

Recommended: Fredrik Logevall, *Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America’s Vietnam* (selection)

April 8 **The Sensations of Martial Law (Philippines)**

Reading: Christine Balance, ““Dahil sa Iyo: the Performative Power of Imelda’s Song.”

In-class-screening: Clip, “Dahil sa Iyo”

April 9 Mandatory, extra-credit event: Christine Balance (University of California, Irvine), Southeast Asia Program Brown Bag Lecture, 12:15–1:30, Kahin Center

APRIL 13, FINAL PAPER PROPOSAL (1 PAGE)

XIII. The Sound/Feeling of Dictatorship (Philippines)

April 13 Novel: Gina Apostol, *Gun Dealers’ Daughter*

April 15 Novel: Gina Apostol, *Gun Dealers’ Daughter*

XIV. The Supernatural (Philippines, Thailand)

April 20 Film: Nonzee Nimibutr, *Nang Nak* (Thailand, 1999)

Reading: Pattana Kitiarsa. *Mediums, Monks, and Amulets: Thai Popular Buddhism Today* (selection)

April 22 Reading: Bliss Lim, “Queer Aswang Transmedia, or Philippine Folklore as Camp”

In class screening: Related film clips

XV. Writing

April 27 **No Class! Charter Day.**

Reading: Brian McGrath, “Bangkok: The Architecture of Three Ecologies”

April 29 Writing workshop: **Term paper mini-drafts due (3–5 pages)**

XVI. Final paper prep

May 4 Writing workshop

May 6 Writing workshop

Required Texts (you will be notified when these become available)

George Orwell, *Burmese Days*

Gina Apostol, *Gun Dealers’ Daughter*

Course Requirements

Attendance and Punctuality

Students are required to attend all class and discussion sessions and participate fully in class discussions. Punctuality is required. If more than **four** class sessions are missed, the student’s grade will be affected.

Class Participation

You must be prepared to discuss each reading assignment on the day indicated. All readings except George Orwell’s *Burmese Days* and Gina Apostol’s *Gun Dealers’ Daughter* are available on Blackboard. Recommended readings are optional.

Short Response Papers (total of 10)

The class will be divided into two groups and members of each group will write short critical response papers **once per week**. You will begin writing responses in Week 3. **Your response papers are due on Blackboard by 8 p.m. on the evening before class.** If your last name begins with A–M, you will write a response before our Monday class (you will post it by 8 p.m. on Sunday); if your last name begins with N–Z you will post your response before our Wednesday class (i.e., you will post your response by 8 p.m. on Tuesday). In weeks with only one class, this schedule may vary.

The response papers should include two short paragraphs at a minimum and should not exceed one page. They should include a short critical analysis of a passage or an issue in one of the assigned texts as well as two or three additional questions that you would like to pose to the readings/topic of the session. **Your responses will be graded cumulatively; you will receive**

two grades—one informal mid-semester grade and one end-of-semester grade. This is to allow for improvement throughout the semester.

Midterm paper (5 pages, double-spaced)

This paper will consist of a 5-page essay in answer to a broadly defined question supplied by the instructor.

Final paper (conference paper length, 10 pages, double-spaced)

Use some of the concepts discussed in class to analyze a text, film, or case **not** covered on the syllabus. You must refer to at least two outside sources and three class readings in your final paper. You will be evaluated on the quality of your research, ability to analyze texts, and skill in crafting a coherent and compelling argument. Outstanding papers demonstrate depth of understanding, original thought, and a fresh perspective on the topic.

Term paper mini-drafts (3–5 pages) are due on April 29. FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE ON MAY [university-set deadline]

ALL PAPERS HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED ON TIME

Facilitate Discussion

Each member of the class will give a short 5-minute “presentation” at the beginning of class intended to start off the discussion of the topic of the week and the accompanying readings of the session.

Assessment for this class is 100% coursework. **There is no final examination.**

You must provide references for quotations and/or citations that you use in all your work. This also applies to images, sound clips, and video clips. Refer to the MLA guidelines on Blackboard.

You may be asked to submit your final paper to **Turnitin**.

Grading

Response papers—20%

Presentation—5%

General class participation 15%

Midterm paper 20% **Due March 16**

Final paper proposal 5% **Due April 13**

Final paper—35% **Due May [university-set deadline]**