

ANTH2450/GEN2332 Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia (2024-25)

Teacher: Dr. Sharon Wong Wai-yee

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Lecture: Tuesday 10:30am-12:15 pm T.C. Cheng Bldg C2

Tutorial: Tuesday 12:30-1:15pm T.C. Cheng Bldg C2

Course Outline

This course is an anthropological journey through Southeast Asia, a world region famed for its ancient civilizations, cultural and linguistic diversity, numerous religions and societies. The course is divided into two parts:

Part One: will focus on geography, socio-ecological and linguistic complexities, and the prehistory, archaeology and history of Southeast Asia. Students will be introduced to the peopling, the origins of agriculture, the development of the ancient kingdoms, the influence of world religions, and the processes of localization, colonization and globalization in the region.

Part Two: will guide students to explore contemporary issues in Southeast Asia's political, social, and cultural lives in anthropological perspective. These include the complex interactions between traditional cultural systems and modernizing forces, how European colonialism influences modern nation-building processes in Southeast Asia. We will also focus on how religion, ethnicity, foodways, gender and sexuality, politics and performing arts, rural transformation and urbanization have been transformed to govern the modern states of Southeast Asia.

This is an elective course within the Program of Anthropology and part of the General Education curriculum. Students from any Program are welcome to take this course.

Learning Outcomes

After taking this course, students are expected to:

- acquaint with the geography, cultural diversity, prehistory, history, and processes of localization and colonization in Southeast Asia, all of which will enable them to understand the current situation in the region;
- make reflect on how social, cultural, and political institutions provide lenses for understanding Southeast Asian cultures and societies;

- develop research and analytical skills and apply them to understand their own societies;
- enable to describe and to be sensitive to the cultural novelties and distinctiveness of different Southeast Asian societies and successfully interact with people of different Southeast Asian cultural backgrounds;
- achieve a better understanding the self through studying the other, which is a defining feature of anthropology

Grade descriptors are as follows for the assessment of this course:

Grade Overall course

A Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.

A- Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.

B Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.

C Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.

D Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes

F Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

Learning Activities

2-hour lectures and 1-hour tutorial per week for one semester, including field trip(s) to study Southeast Asian peoples and cultures in Hong Kong.

Medium of Instruction

English

Submissions & Academic Honesty

As required by the university, from Sept. 2008, students must submit a soft copy of their computer-generated text assignments to VeriGuide at a specified URL. The system will issue a receipt containing a declaration of honesty statement. Students should sign the receipt, print a hard copy of their assignment, and submit the hard copy and the receipt to teachers for grading. The university says that assignments without the receipt will NOT be graded.

Please check the website "Honesty in Academic Work" at: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/> for more information on plagiarism and on how to submit papers through VeriGuide

Course Requirements:

(1) Participation and presentation (30%)

All students will be required to present at least one of the assigned tutorial readings in chosen tutorial week.

(2) Ethnographic reflection report (30%)

Students should submit not more than 6 pictures and 1000 words ethnographic reflection report on the selected topics of people(s) and culture(s) of Southeast Asia in Hong Kong. (Due date 1st March, Saturday, 5pm)

(3) Final paper (40%)

Students will be required to write 2500-3000 words individual paper on their selected topic of Southeast Asian peoples and cultures. Students may also discuss on an issue or topic in a specific country or comparing peoples and cultures of two neighbouring countries in Southeast Asia. They would need to do fieldwork of their choice. (Due date 28th April, Monday, 5pm)

Lecture topics and reading materials

NB: Required readings are essential for the lectures and assessments, tutorial readings and further readings provide useful additional information or alternative perspectives. Students are expected to finish all the weekly readings before the lecture and tutorial.

Part One

Week 1 (7th Jan.)

Introduction: Imagining and locating Southeast Asia

Required Readings:

Osborne, Milton. 2024. *Southeast Asia: An Introductory History*. 14th edition. St. Leonards, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, pp. 1-19.

Goh, Beng-Lan. 2011. "Disciplines and Area Studies in the Global Age: Southeast Asian Reflections," in Beng-Lan Goh (ed.). *Decentring and Diversifying Southeast Asian Studies: Perspectives from the Region*. Singapore: Institute Southeast Asian Studies, pp: 19-44.

Week 2 (14th Jan.)

Geography, socio-ecological and linguistic complexities

Required Readings:

Winzeler, Robert L. 2011. *The Peoples of Southeast Asia Today: Ethnography, Ethnology, and Change in a Complex Region*. Lanham: AltaMira Press, pp. 1-23.

Bowen, John. 1995. "The Forms Culture Takes: a State-of-the-field Essay on the

Anthropology of Southeast Asia.” *Journal of Asian Studies* 54(4): 1047-1078.

Week 3 (21st Jan.)

Prehistory, archaeology and agriculture

Required Reading:

Glover, Ian and Bellwood, Peter, eds. 2004. *Southeast Asia from Prehistory to History*. London and New York: RoutledgeCurzon, pp.1-20.

Week 4 (no lecture, 28th Jan.): Public Holiday: Lunar New Year Holiday

Week 5 (4th Feb.)

Early settlements, ancient kingdoms and colonialism

Required Reading:

Thompson Eric C. 2024. “God Kings of the Golden Lands” in Eric C. Thompson. *The Story of Southeast Asia*. Singapore: National University of Singapore Press, pp. 49-69.

Week 6 (11th Feb.)

Challenges of Independence and modern nation-building processes

Required Reading:

Osborne, Milton. 2024. *Southeast Asia: An Introductory History*. 14th edition. St. Leonards, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, pp. 309-339.

Part Two

Week 7 (18th Feb.)

Ethnicity: Chinese and Chinese Communities in Southeast Asia

Required Reading:

Tan, Chee-Beng. 2010. “Intermarriage and the Chinese Peranakan in Southeast Asia.” In Leo Suryadinata, ed. *Peranakan Chinese in a Globalizing Southeast Asia*. Singapore: Chinese Heritage Centre, Nanyang Technological University, pp.27-40.

Week 8 (25th Feb)

Religions

Required Reading:

Kathleen M. Adam and Kathleen A. Gillogly. 2011. “World Religions in Everyday Life: Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, and Christianity” and Smith-Hefner, Nancy “Javanese Women and the Veil” , In Kathleen M. Adam and Kathleen A. Gillogly, eds. *Everyday Life in Southeast Asia*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana

University Press, pp.137-142, 154-164.

**** Ethnographic reflection report:** completed reports with Veriguide receipts to be submitted to Blackboard by 5pm 1st March, Saturday.

Week 9 (no lecture, 4th March.): Reading Week.

Week 10 (11th March)

Foodways: Food and Identity

Required Reading:

Cheung C.H. Sidney and Tan Chee-Beng, eds. 2007. *Food and Foodways in Asia: Resource, Tradition and Cooking*. London and New York: Routledge, pp.1-9, 171-182.

Week 11 (18th March)

Politics and performing arts

Required Reading:

Cate, Sandra. 2011. "Everyday Life as Art: Thai Artists and the Aesthetics of Shopping, Eating, Protesting, and Having Fun," In Kathleen M. Adam and Kathleen A. Gillogly, eds. *Everyday Life in Southeast Asia*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, pp.206-217.

Week 12 (25th March)

Gender and sexuality

Required Reading:

Kelly, Claire. 2008. "Homeland and National Belonging Beyond Borders: Filipino Domestic Workers and Transmigrants as a Global Nation." In Penelope Graham, ed. *Horizons of Home: Nation, Gender and Migrancy in Island Southeast Asia*. Victoria: Monash University Press, pp.31-44.

Week 13 (1st April)

Borderland and Drug Trade: Choice of Ethnic Minority in the Golden Triangle

Required Reading:

Chin, Ko-Lin. 2009. *The Golden Triangle: Inside Southeast Asia's Drug Trade*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp.8-16, 220-242.

Week 14 (8th April)

Tourism in Southeast Asia

Required Reading:

Bintang Handayani, Hugues Seraphin, and Maximiliano E. Korstanje. 2019. *Special Interest Tourism in Southeast Asia: Emerging Research and Opportunities*. Pennsylvania: IGI Global, pp.1-22.

Week 15 (15th April)

Urbanization and rural transformation in Southeast Asia: Imagined ASEAN

Required Reading:

Clammer, John. 2011. "Everyday life and management of cultural complexity in contemporary Singapore." In Kathleen M. Adam and Kathleen A. Gillogly, eds. *Everyday Life in Southeast Asia*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, pp.117-126.

****Final paper:** completed papers with Veriguide receipts to be submitted to Blackboard by 5pm Monday 28th April.

Tutorial topics

Week 1

No tutorial. Students to prepare and read readings

Week 2

Discussion: Imagining and locating Southeast Asia

Week 3

Discussion: Geography, socio-ecological and linguistic complexities

Week 4 Public Holiday: Lunar New Year Holiday. No tutorial.

Week 5

Discussion: Prehistory, archaeology and agriculture

Weeks 6-8

No classroom tutorials. Tutorials together will be replaced by a fieldtrip to study Southeast Asian peoples and cultures in Hong Kong. The exact day will be decided after the add-drop period.

Week 9 Reading Week, no tutorial.

Week 10

Tutorial Presentation (1) and Discussion: Ethnicity and Food

Week 11

Tutorial Presentation (2) and Discussion: Politics and performing arts

Week 12

Tutorial Presentation (3) and Discussion: Gender and sexuality

Week 13

Tutorial Presentation (4) and Discussion: Borderland and Drug Trade
Week 14

Tutorial Presentation (5) and Discussion: Tourism in Southeast Asia
Week 15

Tutorial Presentation (6) and Discussion: Urbanization and rural transformation in
Southeast Asia