

## **ANTH2450/GENA2332 PEOPLES AND CULTURES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

Thursdays, 10.30-12.15

Venue: T.C. Cheng 201

Instructor: Dr. FAMING, Manynooch

Contact: [nychma@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:nychma@cuhk.edu.hk)

Office Hour: By appointment

TA/RA: LI Xing (email: [xing.li@link.cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:xing.li@link.cuhk.edu.hk) )

Tutorials: Thur. 12. 30-1.15 (T.C. Cheng 201).

### **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**

- |                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| a. Class Participation | 40% |
| b. One Reflection      | 20% |
| c. One Final Essay     | 40% |

## Assessment Details

- A. Class Participation 40%** (Please note that attendances do not count as participations)
1. In-class participation (20%): Having done the readings, keeping notes to share/discuss/raise to the class; Share your thoughts and questions in class.
  2. Tutorial leading discussion (20%): Students will select one reading listed in each week to lead the discussion about the country and its people(s). Note: there will be no tutorial on Indonesia. We will be watching and discussing documentary, followed by Q&A with the director.
- B. One Reflection 20% Due: Mar. 9, 2023, 5pm.**  
Student will write a reflection (between 1,000 and 1,500 words, excluding references) of:  
Option 1: 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 your personal visits. Students may include photos from the visit. We will conduct one field visit to the Thai Temple at Tai Wo MTR station as an optional/volunteer basis for students on Feb. 19, 2023.  
Option 2: documentary DEA and the discussion with the director.
- C. Final Essay 40% Due: April 17, 2023, 5pm.**  
Students will 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. Students 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.

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 Readings

Prior to each weekly topic and individual countries, students are required to read selected articles/book chapters for lecture discussions while vignettes of stories and research reflections for tutorial discussions. Our first weekly tutorial meeting starts in W2 while the leading discussion will start in W3.

Lindquist, Johan, Erik Harms, and Joshua Barker. 2013. *Figures of Southeast Asian Modernity*.

Edited by Johan Lindquist, Erik Harms, and Joshua Barker. (*Main tutorial readings*).

Goh, B.-L. 2011. *Decentring and Diversifying Southeast Asian Studies: Perspectives from the Region*. Singapore: Institute Southeast Asian Studies.

Dutton, G. E. 2015. *Voices of Southeast Asia: essential readings from antiquity to the present*. London: Routledge.

These are now available in *Ebook* form through CUHK Library system. The other listed readings are also available on the Blackboard folders.

## E. 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 Reflection/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. 12: 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.

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

#### Other readings:

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.

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.

### **Week 2 Jan. 19: Mainland Southeast Asia Peninsula and Island nations on Reflections**

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.

Anderson, Benedict. 2013. "Epilogue", in *Figures of Southeast Asian modernity*, edited by Johan Lindquist et al. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press., pp: 240-246.

Gungwu, W. 2011. "Post-imperial Knowledge and Pre-Social Science in Southeast Asia," in B. Goh (Ed.), *Decentring and Diversifying Southeast Asian Studies: Perspectives from the Region*; pp. 60-80.

Chales 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.

### **Week 3 Jan. 26: CNY Holiday (No Class, No Tutorials)**

### **Week 4 Feb. 2: Thailand: Monarchy and Politics**

#### Lecture discussions:

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.

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

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

#### Tutorial Discussions:

Jane M. Ferguson et al. 2013. "Thailand" in *Figures of Southeast Asian Modernity*; pp. 107-129.

#### Optional readings:

Koanantakool, P. 2011. Crafting Anthropology in Many Sites of Fieldwork. In B. Goh (Ed.), *Decentring and Diversifying Southeast Asian Studies: Perspectives from the Region* (pp. 149-167). ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute.

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

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

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

## **Week 5 Feb. 9: Myanmar/Burma: the Struggles of Ethnic Minorities**

### Lecture discussions:

Lintner, Bertil. 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 Zone 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.

### Tutorial discussions:

Nicolas Farrelly et al. 2013. "Burma", in *Figures of Southeast Asian Modernity*. Pp: 214-239.

### Option 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](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/>

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

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

## **Week 6 Feb. 16: Laos and Cambodia cultures and societies**

### Lecture Discussions:

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.

### Tutorial discussions:

Jonathan Padwe et al. 2013. "Cambodia" in *Figures of Southeast Asian modernity*, edited by Johan Lindquist et al. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press., pp: 75-90.

### Optional readings:

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.

Outhine Bounyavong, "Sacrifice", in *Voices of Southeast Asia: essential readings from antiquity to the present*. [Online], pp: 181-188.

Holly High 2016 'The Only Buddhist in the Village', in *Figures of Buddhist Modernity in Asia*, edited by by Jeffrey Samuels, Justin Thomas McDaniel, Mark Michael Rowe. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press. pp. 145-147

## **Feb. 19, Optional Field Visit to Thai Temple, Tai Wo MTR (10am-12.30pm)**

## **Week 7 Feb. 23: Vietnam: Trauma after the American War**

### Lecture discussions:

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.

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

### Tutorial discussions:

Erik Hams et al. 2013. "Vietnam" in *Figures of Southeast Asian modernity*, edited by Johan Lindquist et al. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press., pp: 46-74.

Optional readings:

- 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
- 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.

**Week 8 Mar. 2: Indonesia: Islamic State in Reality(I) (No tutorial)**

**Documentary Screening: DEA and Q&A with director, Alberto Gerosa.**

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14070520/>

Optional readings:

- Joshua Barker and Johan Linquist. 2013. "Indonesia" in *Figures of Southeast Asian modernity*, edited by Johan Lindquist et al. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press., pp: 130-169.
- Geertz, Clifford, 1973. Ch. 6: Ritual and social change: A Javanese example, and Ch. 7: "Internal conversations" in Contemporary Bali, in *The Interpretation of Cultures* [electronic Resource] : Selected Essays.
- 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)

**Week 9 Mar. 9: Reading Week (Reflection Due)**

**Week 10 Mar. 16: Malaysia: Islamic State in Reality (II)**

Lecture discussions:

- 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.
- Goh Beng Lan. 2011. "(Un)learning Human Sciences: the journey of a Malaysian from the 'Looking East' generation" in *Decentring and Diversifying Southeast Asian Studies: Perspectives from the Region*. Singapore: Institute Southeast Asian Studies, pp: 239-258.

Tutorial discussions:

- Yeoh Seng Guan et al. 2013. "Malaysia" in *Figures of Southeast Asian modernity*, edited by Johan Lindquist et al. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press., pp: 170-194.

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
- 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 11 Mar. 23: Singapore**

Lecture discussions:

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

Tutorial discussions:

- Syed Muhd and Khairudin Aljunied et al. 2013. "Singapore" in *Figures of Southeast Asian modernity*, edited by Johan Lindquist et al. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press., pp. 195-213.

Other Readings:

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. 30: The Philippines: Socio-economic bread winner**

Lecture discussions:

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.

**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].

Tutorial discussions:

Smita Lahiri and Dierdre De La Cruz et al. 2013. "The Philippines" in *Figures of Southeast Asian modernity*, edited by Johan Lindquist et al. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press., pp:19-45

Other readings:

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.

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

**Week 13 Apr. 6: Brunei and Timor Leste**

Lecture discussions:

"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 21<sup>st</sup> century* by Marie-Sybille de Vienne (2015); translated by Emilia Lanier. Singapore: NUS Press in Associate with IRASEC.

Tutorial discussions:

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.

**Week 14 Apr. 13 Conclusion and Potluck Party and Cooking Class  
(Thai, Lao, Cambodian, Burmese Buddhist New Year)**