ANTH2450/GENA2332 PEOPLES AND CULTURES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
Thursday, 10.30-12.15
Venue: UCA 104

Instructor: Dr. FAMING, Manyooch
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
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

Other reading:

Week 2  Jan. 20:  Mainland Southeast Asia Peninsula

Week 3  Jan. 27:  Thailand: Monarchy and Politics

Other readings:

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

Other readings:

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


Other readings:


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

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

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

Other readings:
https://www.newmandala.org/assessing-rohingya-crisis/

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


Other readings:

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. 2022 (11am-1pm):
Victoria Park, Causeway Bay
Week 9  Mar. 10:  Malaysia: Islamic State in Reality (II)

**Other readings:**

Week 10  Mar. 17:  The Philippines: Socio-economic bread winner

**Guest speaker: Ms. Aileen del Rosario-Rodilla**


**Other readings:**


*3rd Field Visit: 20 Mar. 2022, (10am-1pm): Filipinos community, World Wide House, Central*

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


**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.

Week 12  Mar. 31:  ASEAN as one SEA?


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

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