ANTH2450 PEOPLES AND CULTURES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA  
Tue, 3.30-5.15  
Venue: MMW705

Instructor: Dr. FAMING, Manynooch  
Contact: nychma@cuhk.edu.hk  
Office Hour: By appointment  
TA: Sun Rui (sunrui@link.cuhk.edu.hk)  
Tutorials: Tue. 5.30-6.15 (MMW705); TBA:Tue. 5.30-6.15 (Venue: TBC)

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the social and cultural complexity of Southeast Asia (SEA) region. This can be mapped as a part on mainland Southeast Asia includes the countries of Burma/Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Singapore, and Malaysia. Island Southeast Asia includes Indonesia, The Philippines, Brunei, and Timor-Leste. The course is taught as a seminar and discussions will organized around assigned readings and guest speakers from individual countries. The seminar will begin with historical background of the region, readings on the history of anthropology in the region, before moving onto ethnographic accounts of individual countries. These cover belief systems, marriage and family, industrialization and urbanization, politics and government, and economic change. In addition to providing a broad and comparative survey of “traditional” Southeast Asia, the course will place special emphasis on the intellectual and practical challenges associated with modernization and development, highlighting the ways different Southeast Asian nations contend with the forces of globalization.

The principle readings are drawn from a multidisciplinary range of fields covering anthropology, art, economics, geography, history, literature, and political science. No prior knowledge of Southeast Asia is expected.

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. Participation 10%  
b. Tutorial discussions 20%  
c. Three short field visit reflections 30%  
d. One Final Essay 40%
Assessment Details

A. Class Participation 10%
Participate in field visits (3 Feb., 3 Mar., and 24 Mar. 2019); Having done the readings and brought them to class; Share your thoughts and questions in class and our guest speakers.

B. Tutorial Participation (20%)
There are 6 tutorial sessions; the rest 4 tutorials will be re-arranged with field visits. Students will sign up for the topic you are interested in at the 2nd tutorial (Week 3). Students can form a small group of 2-3, who will present the discussion on your chosen topic (i.e., based on assigned readings). Prompt attendance at each tutorial meeting, informed participation, and completion of all assigned readings. Every student is expected to be an active member in class and in contributing to a meaningful learning experience. Listening carefully to others, raising relevant questions, posing alternative interpretations, bringing in outside material to enrich class discussion via conference or other means are just some of the way to do so. How ready and conscientious you are in class will directly affect how much the whole class could gain from the course.

C. Three field visit Reflections (30%) Due: 12 Feb., 12 Mar and 2 Apr., 2019.
Student will write a short reflection (or about between 500-800 words) of what you have learned from observing, talking or interacting with our hosts (i.e., Viet Kieu in Hong Kong, Buddhism of mainland Southeast Asia, and a simple day off of an Indonesian/Filipina helper) during the visits. Students may include photos from the visit. This should be submitted before 3.30pm on the due date.

D. Final Essay 40% Due: April 16, 2019
Students will write a 10-13 page final paper (or about between 1,500-2,000 words) that draws on careful reading of and conversation with 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.

E. Notes on submission
Note 1:. Both reflection and final essay must submit a soft copy to VeriGuide CUHK.
Note 2: Please name your assignment file ANTH2450 or GENA2332 Reflection (1 or 2 or 3)/Final Paper Last name First name, and your VeriGuide receipt file ANTH2450 or GENA2332 VeriGuide Last name First name.
Note 3: Save your final paper in Word format, and scan your signed VeriGuide receipt into PDF format. Save them as two separate files. Email the VeriGuide receipt to nychma@cuhk.edu.hk
Course Schedule

Week 1  8 Jan.  Introduction: Course Overview

Week 2  15 Jan.  Brief History of SEA as Region

Week 3  22 Jan  Mainland Southeast Asia Peninsula

Week 4  29 Jan  Vietnam: Trauma after the American War

Guests: Ms. Farah, philanthropist and owner of Soho Banh Mi, and Pastor Timothy, a veteran philanthropist for homeless people in HK

Optional reading:
VDO: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LD54rG-SnDM (Boat People, HK film production, 1982)

1st Field Visit: 3 Feb. 2019 (12.30-2pm), Viet Kieu in Hong Kong at St. Joseph Church, Kowloon Bay.

Week 5  5 Feb.  Chinese New Year (No Class, No Tutorial)

Week 6  12 Feb.  29 Jan.  Thailand: Monarchy and Politics

Optional readings:
Week 7  19 Feb.  Myanmar/Burma: the Struggles of Ethnic Minorities

Optional readings:

Week 8  26 Feb.  Laos and Cambodia cultures and societies

VDO: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-MmZUvMZWI&fbclid=IwAR11MF9QYZj-hmL6GT7x1XZ8TZbtS8GlaxEGf1RA6meJdd25kQNYhq1qog (The disappearance of Sombath Somphone, 2018)

2nd Field Visit: 3 Mar. 2019, (10am-1pm):
Mainland Southeast Asian Buddhism at Wat Tai Wo, Tai Wo MTR.

Week 9  5 Mar.  Mainland Southeast Asian Buddhism at Wat Tai Wo, Tai Wo MTR.

Week 10  12 Mar.  Indonesia: Islamic State in Reality

Optional readings:

Week 11  19 Mar.  The Philippines: Socio-economic bread whiner

Optional reading:

3rd Field Visit: 24 Mar. 2019 (11am-1pm):
Option 1: Indonesian helpers in Causeway Bay;
Option 2: Filipinos helpers in Central

Week 12  26 Mar.  Brunei and Timor-Leste: Small and Beautiful
“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.

Optional Reading:

Week 13  2 Apr.  Reading Week (No Class, No Tutorials)

Week 14  9 Apr. Conclusion: ASEAN as one SEA? (Cooking Class)
Amitav Acharya. 2012. “Ch. 7: Constructing “One Southeast Asia” in The Making of Southeast Asia: International Relations of a Region, Singapore: ISEAS.