

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

Thursdays, 2.30-4.15  
Venue: Zoom Meeting

Instructor: Dr. FAMING, Manynooch  
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Office Hour: By appointment  
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Tutorials: Thur. 4.30-5.15 (T01); 5.30-6.15 (T02)

### **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 exploration 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. Zoom class participation        | 20% |
| b. Zoom Tutorial Discussion leader | 20% |
| c. One documentary/film reflection | 20% |
| d. One Final Essay                 | 40% |

## Assessment Details

### A. Class Participation 20%

Each week, I will randomly select students to prepare some questions related to the weekly topics before class. You must prepare ONE meaningful question that can lead to our class discussion. I will also involve the class (on a random selection) to help me respond if there are no volunteers. This participation part will also take your contributions during tutorials as well.

### B. Tutorial discussion leader 20%

This role to prepare a set of 3-4 key points for discussions. These key points should be drawn from assigned readings. You may post questions related to your selected key points or sharing of experiences and/or asking classmates for contributions. Groupmates are required for a 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, posting 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. One Documentary/Film Reflections 20%

Student will write a short reflection (or about between 1,000 words) of what you have learned from watching the selected documentary/film. The marking criteria will be the same as the final essay. **Due: Mar. 12, 2021 by 6pm.**

### D. Final Essay 40%

Students will write a 15 or so-page final paper (e.g., about between 2,000-2,500 words), excluding references, that:

**Option 1:** draws on interviews of people from Southeast Asia either living in Hong Kong or of your personal contacts.

**Option 2:** though careful readings, reflect upon what you have learned about peoples and cultures of SEA (which can be a comparison of two or more countries or a single country). 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.

Both options should also draw out from the class discussion and texts to critically analyse and advance your argument on an issue or topic you aim to demonstrate. **Due: Apr. 15, 2021 by 5pm.**

### A. 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 Film/Doc Review (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.

## Course Schedule

### **Week 1 Jan. 14: Introduction: Course Overview**

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 Mairii Aung-Thwin. Houndsmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan. pp: 461-471.

### **Week 2 Jan. 21: 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.

#### Other reading:

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.

### **Week 3 Jan. 28: Mainland Southeast Asia Peninsula: Buddhist States**

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.  
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.

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

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

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

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

#### Other readings:

Ch. 32: Kingdom of Thailand, in *The emergence of modern Southeast Asia: a new history*, edited by Owen, Norman G. (ed.). 2005. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

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

**Review Documentary:** *Soul of a Nation* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ih9cgmYY5M> ).

### **Week 5 Feb. 11: Myanmar/Burma: the Struggles of Ethnic Minorities**

Lintner, Bertil. 2003. "Myanmar/Burma", in *Ethnicity in Asia*, edited by Colin Mckerras. London: RoutledgeCurzon, pp: 174-193.

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

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

#### Other readings:

Farrelly, Nicholas. 2018. "Assessing the Rohingya Crisis," *New Mandala*, 13 Jun 2018.

<https://www.newmandala.org/assessing-rohingya-crisis/>

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)

Ferguson, J. M., 2014. "Rock Your Religion: Shan Buddhist Ritual and Stage-Show Revelry in a Contested Zonoe 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.

**\*Note:** Zoom class will continue accordingly to the public holiday during the Chinese New Year vacation.

### **Week 6 Feb. 18.: Laos and Cambodia cultures and societies**

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.

**Week 7 Feb. 25.: Vietnam: Trauma after the American War**

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.

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

Other readings:

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.

Ch. 34: Vietnam after 1975: From Collectivism to Market Leninism, in *The emergence of modern Southeast Asia: a new history*, edited by Owen, Norman G. (ed.). 2005. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

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

**Week 8 Mar. 4.: The Philippines: Socio-economic bread winner**

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.

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.

Other readings:

Ch. 33: The Philippines since 1972, in *The emergence of modern Southeast Asia: a new history*, edited by Owen, Norman G. (ed.). 2005. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

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

**Review 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].

**Week 9 Mar. 11.: Islamic States in Reality I: Indonesia**

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.

Other readings:

Ch. 31: Indonesia: The First Fifty Years, in *The emergence of modern Southeast Asia: a new history*, edited by Owen, Norman G. (ed.). 2005. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

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 review:** Communism, Suharto, Cold War and people  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLT6G8FD3E4> (Documentary: 40 years of silence: An Indonesia tragedy)

**Week 10 Mar. 18: Islamic States in Reality II: Malaysia**

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.

Tan Chee-Beng. 1997. "Chinese Identities in Malaysia," *Southeast Asian Journal of Social Science*, Vol. 25, No. 2, Special Focus: Transformations of Ethnic Identity in Malaysia and Singapore (1997), pp. 103-116

Otheor readings:

Ch. 29: Malaysia since 1957, in *The emergence of modern Southeast Asia: a new history*, edited by Owen, Norman G. (ed.). 2005. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

Furlow, Christopher. 2009. "Malaysian Modernities: Cultural Politics and the Construction of Muslim Technoscientific Identities," *Anthropological Quarterly*, Winter 2009, Vol. 82(1), pp: 197-228.

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

**Week 11 Mar. 25.: Singapore**

Chua Beng Huat. 2003. "Singapore: Multiracial Harmony as public good", in *Ethnicity in Asia*, edited by Colin Mckerras. London: RoutledgeCurzon, pp: 101-7.

Stimpfl, Joseph. 1997. "Growing up Malay in Singapore," *Southeast Asian Journal of Social Science*, Vol. 25, No. 2, Special Focus: Transformations of Ethnic Identity in Malaysia and Singapore (1997), pp: 117-138.

Other reading

Wang Gungwu. 1997. "Malaysia-Singapore: Two kinds of ethnic transformations", *Southeast Asian Journal of Social Science*, Vol. 25, No. 2, Special Focus: Transformations of Ethnic Identity in Malaysia and Singapore (1997), pp: 183-7.

**Week 12 Apr. 1: Islamic States III: Brunei; Timor Leste in transition**

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.

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

**Week 13 Apr. 8.: Conclusion: ASEAN as one SEA?**

Amitav Acharya. 2012. "Ch. 7: Constructing "One Southeast Asia" in *The Making of Southeast Asia: International Relations of a Region*, Singapore: ISEAS.