

ILAS 225
Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World
Fall 2010

Classroom: DuSable 148

Time: 12:30-1:45 Tuesdays and Thursdays

Course Coordinator: Professor Kheang Un, Ph.D.

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Course Objectives: This course meets the general education requirement for interdisciplinary studies. The general objective of this course is to introduce you to the fascinating world of Southeast Asia. This objective recognizes the need for contemporary Americans to be educated and familiar with another cultural region in order to understand the complex process of globalization and rapid international change around the world today. Southeast Asia is one of the most diverse areas of Asia. The countries of Southeast Asia include Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia (all primarily Theravada Buddhist countries); Vietnam and Singapore (mixed Taoist-Buddhist countries); Brunei, Malaysia, and Indonesia (all primarily Islamic countries); the Philippines and East Timor (primarily Roman Catholic). This course is taught from an interdisciplinary perspective, which introduces you to the region through the lens of social sciences, humanities, and the arts. The course is organized around a loose thematic framework, and divided into three distinct parts described in the course readings section.

Course Goals: There are three specific goals for this course. First, the course will increase your knowledge of the different countries of Southeast Asia, including their geographical features, political systems and religious traditions. The course will improve your understanding of the importance of environment to human cultures in the past and the complexity of the human condition. Second, the course will provide you a broad overview of the history and cultural diversity of this region of Asia, thereby increasing your knowledge about the accomplishments and contributions of non-western civilizations. You will gain increased appreciation and tolerance for cultures other than your own. Third, the course will enhance your understanding of how art, architecture, literature, and sculpture reflect basic religious and cosmological themes

throughout the region. You will gain an understanding of the diversity of art forms and how the arts reflect different cultural beliefs, ideals, and truths throughout all parts of the world.

Text for Purchase:

Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World, 2nd Edition, by Clark Neher, 2004, (Southeast Asia Publications, Northern Illinois University), available at HSC bookstore.

Required Texts and Articles on Print Reserve (PR) in Founders Library (reserve desk) **or on Electronic Reserve (ER)** (available on the Web through Blackboard—see “Articles: Electronic Reserves” link in “External Links”):

Texts: Ngor, Haing. *A Cambodian Odyssey*. (PR)
May Someth. *Cambodian Witness*. (PR)
Szymusiak, *The Stones Cry Out*. (PR)
Criddle and Buttman, *To Destroy is No Loss*. (PR)

Articles and Chapters:

Andaya, Barbara, “Religious Developments in Southeast Asia,” from *The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia* (ER)
Ma, "Cultural Diversity". (ER)
Wiegele, “Everyday Catholicism: Spaces of New Religious Experience in the Philippines” (ER)
Reid, A. “Age of Commerce” (ER)
Holt, C. *Art in Indonesia* (ER)
Osborne, M. “Second World War in Southeast Asia.” (ER)
Mabbett and Chandler. *The Khmers*, pp. 39-65. (ER)
McMahon, Robert J. “Chapter 7” in *The Limits of Empire: The United States and Southeast Asia Since World War II* (pp. 182-217). (ER)
Raya Muttarak, ‘Domestic service in Thailand: Reflection of conflicts in gender, class and ethnicity’, *JSEAS* 35, 3 (October 2004), pp. 503-529.
Margaret Kartomi, *Musical Instruments of Indonesia: An Introductory Handbook* (Malbourne: Indonesia Arts Society, 1985. (ER)
Wang, “Indonesia Gamelan.” (ER)
World Music: A Global Journey. (ER)

Southeast Asian Studies Center Web Sites: Some of our faculty lecturers have placed their lecture notes on the Crossroads Website (www.seasite.niu.edu/crossroads/) next to their names. Also, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies has developed a Southeast Asian language and culture Website, complete with interactive language learning lessons. You may access this site at www.seasite.niu.edu to learn more about the various countries and languages of this region. *To learn more about becoming a Southeast Asian undergraduate minor or a member of the Southeast Asia Club, our student-run organization, or more about Study Abroad opportunities in Southeast Asia, check out the Center Web page (www.niu.edu/cseas/) or talk to your instructor.*

Faculty Offices and Telephone Numbers:

Office hours of the individual faculty lecturers are posted on their office doors or may be obtained from each faculty member's department secretary. Faculty offices are:

- Jim Collins, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Pottenger House 204, 753-1771, jtcukm@yahoo.com
- Andrea Molnar, Department of Anthropology, 202B Stevens Building, 753-8578, akmolnar@niu.edu
- Rhodalyne Gallo-Crail, Foreign Languages and Literature Watson Hall 309, (815) 753-6457, rgallocrail@niu.edu
- Michael Buehler, Department of Political Science, 418 Zulauf; 753-7053, michibuehler@gmx.net
- Patricia Henry, Foreign Languages and Literature, Watson 123, 753-6454, phenry@niu.edu
- Trudy Jacobson, Department of History, 714 Zulauf, 753-6659, tjacobsen1@niu.edu
- Eric Jones, History, Zulauf 708, 753-6657, ILoveRoti@gmail.com
- Judy Ledgerwood, Department of Anthropology, 202A Stevens Building, 753-8579, jledgerw@niu.edu
- Wei Luo, Geography, Davis Hall 120, wluo@niu.edu
- Catherine Raymond, Center for Burma Studies, 101 Pottenger House, 815-753-0512; craymond@niu.edu
- Ann Wright-Parsons, Department of Anthropology, 102 Stevens Building, 753-0230, awparsons@niu.edu
- Susan Russell, Department of Anthropology, 207A Stevens Building, 753-8577, srussell@niu.edu
- Kheang Un; Department of Political Science, 411 Zulauf; 753-1022, kun1@niu.edu
- Jui-Ching Wang, Department of Music, 206 Music Building, 753-7979, jewang@niu.edu
- Katharine Wiegele Stevens Building 200Cb, 753-7032, wiegele@niu.edu

Note: NIU abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which mandates reasonable accommodations be provided for qualified students with disabilities.

If you have a disability and may require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodation, please contact me early in the semester so that I can provide or facilitate in providing accommodations you may need. You need to be registered with the Center for Access-Ability Resources (CAAR), the designated office on campus to provide services for students with disabilities (753-1303).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Examinations There are *two examinations*, as outlined below. Exams will cover lectures, handouts, text materials, maps, reserve readings, and films. Exams focus heavily on class lectures, but we pass out study guides before each exam. You are expected to read the

appropriate chapters of the required texts or the items on reserve in the library *before* each class session. These readings will help you understand the class lecture. Make-up exam is offered only in case of emergency and agreed upon by the course coordinator.

Map Quiz: A key part of the first exam in this course is a map quiz, which is worth 25% of your exam grade. The 4th floor of Founders Library has a special area designated for Southeast Asian materials called the Donn V. Hart Collection. Map Web Sites: Check out www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/docs/refmaps.html or www.nationalgeographic.com/maps/ or www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/asiahtml or <http://geography.about.com/library/maps/blindex.htm> for a general map of each country and some current facts. *You will probably have to consult more than one source to fill out your map.*

Attendance: Students are required to attend class regularly in order to do well in this course, and so we will take attendance. You will lose four points for each additional absence beyond the first absence. Irregular arrival and departure times to the classroom or other disruptive behavior such as texting or cell phone use are not allowed. You must arrive to class on time (no more than 5 minutes late), and you should not leave the class until the class period is over. These aspects of your class performance and attendance are reflected in attendance grade, and a failure to follow these basic classroom performance standards will result in a loss of points.

Group Discussion: The class will be organized into different discussion groups. You are required to participate in the group discussions. These discussions will focus on topics related to class lectures and assigned readings (topics or questions for discussions will be given prior to the discussion dates). Students are expected to prepare those questions in advance of group discussions based on the assigned readings and some additional research. Each group is required to appoint a member (ideally alternately) who will report to the class. Every class member is also required to write a 500-900 word report based on each discussion session of his/her group, assigned readings and additional research. Use proper citations when relevant.

Extra Credit (optional): Students have the opportunity to gain up to 20 points of extra credit by going to an event, exhibit, or talk related to Southeast Asia. We will announce the times and dates of these extra credit opportunities in class and on Blackboard. To receive the credit, students must attend the event, talk or exhibit and write a 2-3 page summary and reaction paper that must be handed in within two weeks after the event.

Grading

Exam 1 = 100 points (multiple choice = 75; map = 25)

Exam 2 = 100 points

Attendance = 40

Group discussion and written report= 60

Total points (maximum) = 300
Extra credit = +20

August 24 (Tue) Introduction and discussion of course organization and objectives Un

Required Readings: Neher, Ch. 1 "Introduction" and Ch.2 "Southeast Asia: Region of Diversity"

Movie: "World Regional Geography: Southeast Asia."

August 26 (Thu) Geography of Southeast Asia Luo

Description: This lecture provides an overview of Southeast Asia geography, background on monsoons and tropical cyclones, background on plate tectonics, and environmental hazards facing the region and its member states.

August 31 (Tue) Languages of Southeast Asia. Collins

Description: This lecture focuses on the diversity of languages of SEA. Genetic and typological classifications of SEAsian languages are presented. The contrasting morphologies of some of these languages are touched upon. The lecture also covers the relationships between migrations and languages. The impact of national languages and other languages of wider communication on the minority languages of this region is discussed. Some cases of language attrition, language loss and language death are discussed with reference to social, economic and cultural factors.

Required Reading: Peruse the language materials at www.seasite.niu.edu.

September 2 (Thu) Literature of Southeast Asia Gallo-Crail

Description: The lecture is a sampling of traditional and modern literature from the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries. This lecture will survey traditional folktales, poetry, chants and classical epics, drama, and traditional and contemporary short stories and novels and modern folklore.

Required Reading: Origin of Rice [Available on course document]

Legend of the Married River [Available on course document]

Why the Sky is so High [Available on course document]

II. Religion and Arts of Southeast Asia

September 7 (Tue) "The Three Worlds of Bali" Un or Mai

Description: On the Indonesian island of Bali, the arts permeate almost every aspect of daily life. Gamelan music, *wayang* (shadow puppet) theater, dance, and elaborately constructed offerings of foods and flowers all represent attempts to please the gods and placate demons. In Balinese cosmology, demons are thought to dwell in the watery underworld, gods in the upper world, and human beings in the middle realm between the two. Much of human effort is directed toward

maintaining the proper balance between these worlds, and between the forces of growth and decay. (From: Documentary Educational Resources website, www.der.org)

September 9 (Thu) Material Culture of Southeast Asia Wright-Parsons

Description: This lecture discusses the magnificent textile arts of Southeast Asia, and is illustrated with original textiles and artifacts from the Museum of Anthropology.

September 14 (Tue) Group Discussion I

September 16 (Th) Mahabharata and Ramayana Henry

Description: This lecture begins with a brief description of several key Hindu concepts (including *karma*, rebirth, caste, dharma, and meditation), with particular attention paid to Indic literature. The lecture then examines two major Hindu epics, the Mahabharata and the Ramayana, well-known throughout Southeast Asia. In addition to a brief discussion of major events and characters in the story, the lecture also discusses how language is used by characters in the story, as well as by those who tell the story.

Required Readings: C. Holt, 'The Mahabharata' and excerpt on 'Living Traditions,' in *Art in Indonesia* (ER)

September 21 (Tue) Wayang Kulit Henry

Description: The lecture continues to explore the story of the Mahabharata and Ramayana, but with the focus on its performance as Javanese *wayang* (shadow theater). Particular emphasis is given to the ways in which *wayang* performance is seen as something which affects as well as depicts the Javanese world.

Understanding the role of *wayang* is the key to understanding many aspects of traditional and modern Javanese culture, and some of these aspects are discussed in detail. Again, the role of 'powerful language' is significant here, especially for *wayang* which have ritual significance.

Required Reading: Holt, C. *Art in Indonesia* (ER)

September 23 (Th) Music of Southeast Asia Wang

Please note that this class will not be held in our regular classroom. It will be held in the Music Building, Room 102. Please be on time.

Description: This lecture/demonstration introduces some general musical ideas and styles from Southeast Asian countries, such as Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. We will also talk specifically about Indonesian gamelan, and students

will have the opportunity to play or listen to gamelan instruments in the Music Building.

Required Reading: Margaret Kartomi, *Musical Instruments of Indonesia: An Introductory Handbook* (Malbourne: Indonesia Arts Society, 1985. (ER)

Wang, "Indonesia Gamelan." (ER)

World Music: A Global Journey. (ER)

September 28 (Tue) Buddhism in the Arts of Southeast Asia I Raymond

Description: This lecture discusses the essential components of Buddhism as described in the earliest texts and explains their significance. It deals with the most important doctrines of Buddhism, the various paths to *nirvana*, the two major schools of Buddhism, and Buddhism as it is practiced and reflected in the temple architecture of Pagan, Burma.

Recommended reading: Bechert and Gombrich, *The World of Buddhism*, 1964. (not on reserve)

September 30 (Th)

Buddhism in the Arts of Southeast Asia II

Raymond

Recommended reading: Philip Rawson, *The Art of Southeast Asia*, 1967. (not on reserve)

October 5 (Tue) Movie: "Ramadan: a Fast of Faith"

Un or Mai

This movie was filmed in Java, Indonesia, and follows a family throughout the various phases of Ramadan, the holy fasting month of Islam.

October 7 (Th) Islam in Southeast Asia

Russell

Description: This lecture discusses the historical and cultural impacts of Islam in insular Southeast Asia. Emphasis is given to understanding how Islam was introduced into the region, and its basic religious and cosmological characteristics. Specific attention is given to how Islam affects the contemporary politics of the region.

Article Reading: "Religious Developments in Southeast Asia c1500-1800" from Barabara Andaya, *The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia* (pp. 164-183) (ER).

October 12 (Tue) Christianity in the Philippines

Wiegele

Description: This lecture discusses the role of Roman Catholicism in Filipino culture and history, including a brief overview of Spanish and American colonialism in the Philippines. It also discusses more recent religious innovations that shape the contemporary cultural and religious landscape for the Christian majority.

Required Reading: Neher, pp. 127-134, 47-50; Katharine L. Wiegele, “Everyday Catholicism: Spaces of New Religious Experience in the Philippines” in *Everyday Life in Southeast Asia*, edited by Kathleen Adams and Kathleen Gillogly [ER]

October 14 (Th) Group Discussion II

October 19 (Tue) Review and First Class Evaluation

October 21 (Th) Mid Term Exam

III. History and Politics of Southeast Asia

October 26 (Tue) Gender Issues in Southeast Asia

Jacobsen

Description: Despite vague references to ‘high status’ for women in the Southeast Asian past, patriarchal structures now pervade the region, to the detriment of women. This is especially clear in the sex sector and in terms of gendered labour. How did women come to lose their ‘high status’ – if indeed they ever enjoyed it? What impact does this have for the participation of women in the economic and political realms? How are gender and development programs redressing this situation? These and other questions will be addressed in this lecture.

Required Reading: Raya Muttarak, ‘Domestic service in Thailand: Reflection of conflicts in gender, class and ethnicity’, *JSEAS* 35, 3 (October 2004), pp. 503-529.

October 28 (Th) Video “From the Barrel of a Gun”

Un or Mai

Description: Third in the film series, *The Pacific Century*, this film describes the revolution began by Asia's political leaders following WW II. Shows how the Pacific war, the cultural revolution in China and the Vietnam War stem the roots of nationalism. The end of colonial dominance and the rise of nationalism and communism are told through the lives of Ho Chi Minh, the Vietnamese revolutionary, and Sukarno, the founding father of Indonesia.

November 2 (Tue) Colonialism in Southeast Asia

Jones

Description: This lecture/film focuses on the origins of colonialism, the spread of colonialism in Southeast Asia, some questions about colonial policies, and a comparison of the colonial rule of the different European powers in the area.

Required Reading: Reid, "An 'Age of Commerce' in Southeast Asian History" (ER)

November 4 (Th) World War II and Southeast Asia

Jones

Description: The late 1930s and 1940s were a time of shifting diplomatic alignments in Southeast Asia. Because Europeans and Americans were preoccupied with domestic economics and defending against the German advance in Europe, they were less interested in their Asian colonies. This opportunity enabled Southeast Asian nationalists to assert leadership. At the same time, Japan was extending its economic influence and military power, moving southward through China into Southeast Asia. The Japanese cultural campaign proclaimed that Asia should be ruled by Asians and promised independence from the Western colonial/imperialist rule. At first some Southeast Asians admired and welcomed the Japanese. However, when the promised independence was not granted, Southeast Asian nationalists--many of whom had been leaders in resisting Western colonial rule (as in Indonesia, Burma, and Vietnam)--mounted underground movements to drive the Japanese out. The Thai underground anti-Japanese movement (the Free Thai or *Seri Thai*) had several branches, but all were concerned with freeing the nation of foreign interference. The most significant development of the World War II period in Southeast Asia was that nationalist independence movements flourished.

Required Reading: Osborne, "The Second World War in Southeast" (ER)

November 9 (Tue) "American Takes Charge": A Documentary Film on the Vietnam War Mai

Description: This movie chronicles the change over from US advisors to the direct deployment of US troops from 1965 onward. It includes interviews with veterans and Vietnamese civilians about an attack on one particular village. How could the perceptions of what took place be so different?

Required Reading: Review Neher, *Southeast Asia*, pp. 144-155; 192-194

November 11 (Th) East Timor (Timor Leste)

Andrea Molnar

Description: This lecture highlights Timor Leste (East Timor), the newest member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, covering its long torturous past to its independence from foreign rule in 2002 and subsequent international engagement in restoring peace and rebuilding the country. In addition to discussion on the country's current social, cultural and political issues, the lecture also explores the economic challenges faced by the country following its independence, focusing specifically on the politics of oil.

Required Reading: TBA

November 16 (Tue) "Political Islam in Southeast Asia"

Michael Buehler

There is a prevailing assumption that there is no clear separation between state, politics and religion in Islam. However, there is intriguing variation in the way in

which religion manifests itself in politics among Muslim nations. How does religion relate to political activism, mobilization and organization in the Muslim nations in Southeast Asia? The section looks into comparatively the cases of Indonesia and Malaysia to investigate various forms of political engagement and activism by religious organizations and movements.

Required reading: Hefner, Robert W. 1999. Islam and Nation in the Post-Suharto Era. In *Politics of Post-Suharto Indonesia*, edited by A. Schwartz. New York: Council on Foreign Relations Press.

November 18 (Th) Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge Period

Un/Mai

Description: When the Khmer Rouge came to power in Cambodia in April 1975, they undertook a radical experiment in social engineering, emptying the cities and forcing the entire population into backbreaking agricultural labor with little food. The result was the death of at least 1.5 million people from a population of some 7-8 million. This lecture discusses the events of this period, readings are from first person accounts of survivors, and a film provides historical background.

Required readings: Students are required to read *two* chapters from any of the four books on print reserve (PR). These are: 1. Ngor, *A Cambodian Odyssey*; 2. May, *Cambodian Witness*; 3. May, *Cambodian Witness*; 4. Criddle and Buttman, *To Destroy is No Loss*.

November 23 (Tue) Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge Period

Ledgerwood

Description: When the Khmer Rouge came to power in Cambodia in April 1975, they undertook a radical experiment in social engineering, emptying the cities and forcing the entire population into backbreaking agricultural labor with little food. The result was the death of at least 1.5 million people from a population of some 7-8 million. This lecture discusses the events of this period, readings are from first person accounts of survivors, and a film provides historical background.

Article readings: Students are required to read *two* chapters from any of the four books on print reserve (PR). These are: 1. Szymusiak, *The Stones Cry Out*. 2. Ngor, *A Cambodian Odyssey*; 3. May, *Cambodian Witness*; 4. Criddle and Buttman, *To Destroy is No Loss*.

November 25 (Thu) THANKSGIVING

November 30 (Tue) Group Discussion III

December 2 (Thu) Review and Evaluation II

December 7 FINAL EXAM 12:00-1:50 pm