

ILAS 225 (Section 1)
Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World
Fall 2009

Classroom: Psyc-Computer Science 110

Time: 12:30-1:45 Tuesdays and Thursdays (section 1), 3:30-4:45 (section 2)

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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: Szymusiak, Molyda. *The Stones Cry-out*. (PR)
Ngor, Haing. *A Cambodian Odyssey*. (PR)
May Someth. *Cambodian Witness*. (PR)
Criddle, Joan, and Teeda 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)

Bentley, Mace and Steve Horstmeyer, “Living With Heat,” *Weatherwise*, Jan./Feb. 2004 (“Course Documents” in Blackboard)

Lewellen, Ted "Import Substitution, Basic Needs, and the Physical Quality of Life Index: the Domestic Economy".(ER)

Ma, "Cultural Diversity". (ER)

Molnar, Andrea "Christianity and Traditional Religion among the Hoga Sara of West Central Flores". (ER)

Wiegele, *Investing in Miracles* (ER)

Reid, A. “Age of Commerce” (ER)

Holt, C. *Art in Indonesia* (ER)

Osborne, M. “Second World War in Southeast Asia.” (ER)

Sheridan, G. “Jihad Archipelago.” (ER)

Sidel, John T. 2003. “Other Schools, Other Pilgrimages, Other Dreams: The Making and Unmaking of Jihad 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)

Sheridan, Greg, "Jihad Archipelago," in Annual Editions World Politics 07-08 (New York: McGraw Hill, 2008), pp. 170-174. (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:

Mace Bentley, Geography, 219C Davis Hall, mbentley@niu.edu
Kenton Clymer, History, 710 Zulauf (753-6814)
Jim Collins, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Pottenger House 204 (753-1771)
Patricia Henry, Foreign Languages and Lit., Watson 123 (753-6454)
Trudy Jakobson, History, 714 Zulauf (753-6659)
Eric Jones, History, Zulauf 708 (753-6657)
Judy Ledgerwood, Anthropology, 202A Stevens Building (753-8579)
Andrea Molnar, Anthropology, 202B Stevens Building (753-8578)
Ann Wright-Parsons, Anthropology, 102 Stevens Building (753-0230)
Catherine Raymond, Art History, Art Building 110/Pottenger House 101 (753-7862)
Susan Russell, Anthropology, 207A Stevens Building (753-8577)
Kheang Un, Political Science, 411 Zulauf (753-1022)
Jui-Ching Wang, Music, 206 Music Building (753-7979)
Katharine Wiegele, Anthropology, 200A Stevens Building (753-7032)

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 Accessibility 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.

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/asia.html 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). Each group is required to appoint a member (ideally alternating) who will report to the class. Every class member is also be required to write a 300-500 word report based on each discussion session of his/her group.

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= 120

Total points (maximum) = 360

Extra credit = +20

DATE	SUBJECT	LECTUERER
Part I: Land and People of Southeast Asia		
August 25	Introduction, course objectives Text readings: Neher, Ch. 1 "Introduction" and Ch.2 "Southeast Asia: Region of Diversity" (from your textbook) Movie: "World Regional Geography: Southeast Asia."	Un or Mai
August 27	Cultural and Historical Highlights <i>Description:</i> This lecture covers the basic geography of Southeast Asia, highlighting the historical impulses in the region owing to its location at the crossroads of trade between India and China. It also reviews conventional ways and reasons behind how scholars understand the ethnic diversity of this region. Text reading: Neher, Ch.3 "Historical Highlights" Article reading: Ma, "Cultural Diversity" (Electronic Reserve [ER])	Ledgerwood
September 1	Geography of Southeast Asia <i>Description:</i> The geography of Southeast Asia with an emphasis on the hazards in the region will be presented. The overview of the region will be presented within a discussion of the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami of December 26, 2004. Reading: Bentley and Horstmeyer, "Living With Heat," <i>Weatherwise</i> , Jan./Feb. 2004 (found in "Course Documents" in Blackboard)	Bentley
September 3	Languages of Southeast Asia. <i>Description:</i> This lecture focuses on the diversity of the languages of Island SEA. Genetic classifications of the languages are presented. The contrasting morphologies of some of these languages are touched upon. 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. Reading: TBA. Peruse the language materials at www.seasite.niu.edu .	Collins
September 8	Group Discussion	
September 10	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.

II. Religion and Arts of Southeast Asia

September 15 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 202. 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.

Reading: TBA

September 17 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.

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

September 22 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.

Article reading: Holt, C. *Art in Indonesia* (ER)

September 24 Group Discussion

- September 29 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 1 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 6 Movie: "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)
- October 8 Review for Exam I
- October 13 Exam I
- October 15 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)
- October 20 Buddhism in the Arts of Southeast Asia II Raymond
 Recommended reading: Philip Rawson, *The Art of Southeast Asia*, 1967. (not on reserve)

October 22 Christianity in the Philippines Wiecele
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.

Text reading: Neher, pp. 127-134, 47-50

Article Readings: Katharine L. Wiecele, "Introduction" (pp. 1-10) and "Local Religious Life" (pp. 115-130) in *Investing in Miracles* (ER)

October 27 Group Discussion

III. History, Politics, and Economy of Southeast Asia

October 29 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 3 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.
Article reading: Reid, "An 'Age of Commerce' in Southeast Asian History" (ER)

November 5 American Takes Charge 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?

November 10 The Vietnam War Mai
Description: This lecture will discuss the origins of "America's Longest War" which, in some ways, began in 1945, and certainly in 1950. It will trace the initial

decision to favor the French in Indochina over Ho Chi Minh's Viet Minh, including the decision to give aid directly to the French for military operations in Vietnam. After the defeat of the French in the Battle of Dien Bien Phu, the United States attempted to create a nation and committed itself to the new state of South Vietnam. President Kennedy increased the American commitment in the early 1960s, and President Johnson chose war in 1965, which led to an increasing level of violence that culminated in the Tet Offensive of January-February 1968, after which there was a gradual withdrawal of American troops – but not before the United States had expanded the war into neighboring Cambodia, which set the stage for the victory of the savage Khmer Rouge in 1975.

Text reading: Ch. 6: “Recent History and Politics” (especially pp. 144-155).

November 12 “Return to the Killing Fields”

Un or Mai

Description: The true extent of the horror may never be known. But with the perspective provided by the passage of time, we can finally begin to understand the tragedy that befell Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge. Bill Kurtis leads this trip to the infamous Killing Fields, where Pol Pot's regime tried to establish a pure Communist society by eliminating the ruling class, the educated class, the officer corps and a large number of the peasantry of his nation. Between one and four million people died before the Khmer Rouge was forced from power. *Return to the Killing Fields* features exclusive interviews with people who witnessed the systematic massacres, including survivors and those who actually carried out the torture and killing. Their shocking stories offer a uniquely personal view of one of the most reprehensible chapters in human history.

November 17 Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge Period

Un

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. Syzmusiak, *The Stones Cry Out*. 2. Ngor, *A Cambodian Odyssey*; 3. May, *Cambodian Witness*; 4. Criddle and Buttman, *To Destroy is No Loss*.

November 19 Gender Issues in Southeast Asia Jacobson
Reading: TBA

November 24 Who Governs in Southeast Asia? Un

Description: This lecture covers political issues in each of the contemporary Southeast Asian nations. The area is analyzed in terms of communist, military-authoritarian, and semi-democratic governments with the emphasis on the differences and similarities within the Southeast Asian region. Given the rapid changes in the region, this lecture changes each semester to deal with current events.

Text reading: Neher, Ch. 6: “Recent History and Politics” and Ch.7 “Leaders.”

November 26 Thanksgiving

December 1 Group Discussion

December 3 Review for Final Exam

December 8 Final Exam