**History of Southeast Asia, 18th C to the Present**

**Preliminary Course Design**

**NEH 2011**

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**The Course**

This will be the first course in Southeast Asia that is offered in the department. It will be an upper-division course. Non majors must have completed the required Liberal Studies History course before enrolling in this course.

The class, which meets three times a week, will be taught as a lecture-cum-discussion course. There will be a total of 42 class meetings in the semester. In the tentative schedule that follows, these meetings are numbered #1 to #42.

Students are expected to complete their reading assignments and discuss select readings on days when a lecture may be the primary mode of instruction. Additionally, there are several in class discussions and online discussions scheduled throughout the semester.

**The Students**

Students who will enroll in this course are likely to come from the following groups:

1. History majors. For these students, this course can fulfill one of the following requirements: i) required elective; ii) departmental non-Western history requirement; or iii) free elective.
2. Social Studies education majors who have a History concentration. This course can fulfill one of the following requirements: i) required elective OR ii) departmental non-Western history requirement.
3. Asian Studies majors and/or minors.
4. Religious Studies and Anthropology majors.
5. Other members of the undergraduate population for whom this course can meet a Liberal Studies or Liberal Studies Non-Western area requirement.

Because most of the students are not likely to have had any acquaintance with Southeast Asian history, this course will serve as an introduction to the region for a majority of them. Consequently, a chronological narration or overview of events (whenever appropriate) has to be a part of the lectures. The course will combine both a “country by country” approach with thematic overviews modeled after the approach in *Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia*

**Course Content and Rationale**

Designing a history course on Southeast Asia raises the question of periodization. In some ways, I have decided to disengage from the periodization debate by naming the course, *Southeast Asia from 18th C - Present*. The course therefore begins at the latter stage of what is sometimes viewed as the early modern period (c. 1450 – 1800). Even so, several class sessions will discuss the developments – among them the spread of Buddhism, Islam and Christianity, commercial expansion and growth of trading ports, and contact with the outside world -- that shaped the region from the 15th C onwards. The course begins in the second half of the 18th C. By that time, Europeans were very much part of the landscape but the widespread colonial rule that was to follow was not a foregone conclusion. On the mainland, three different dynasties emerged in Burma, Thailand, and Vietnam, while in island Southeast Asia, the Johor sultanate which took the place of the port of Melaka had to weather pressure from the Dutch.

There is also a pragmatic reason for beginning the course in the 18th C. At some point in the future, I hope to include another course that focuses on the earlier history of Southeast Asia: from early state formation and the the “classical” states through the early modern period, ending around 1800. In that course, the 15th C – 18th C period will certainly be examined in greater detail.

The rest of the course will follow the trajectory of most Southeast Asian history courses by looking at the political and socioeconomic implications of colonial rule, the emergence of anti-colonial nationalism and the struggles for independence, nation-building projects, and significant contemporary issues in the region.

**Course Themes**

The themes that will be emphasized are:

1. Geography, environment, and history of Southeast Asia.
2. Issues of Unity and Diversity, both in the region and also within nation-states in the post-independence period.
3. Responses to outside influence – accommodation, adaptation, and creative syntheses.
4. Debates about modernity.

**Outline of Course Content**

Course content will be divided into the following sections:

1. **Introduction**

* Introduction to the course.
* Concept of Southeast Asia.
* Maps of region.
* Contemporary political geography of the region.
* Commonalities and differences in the physical environment, which have in turned shaped the ways societies have evolved.

1. **Society and Authority in Early Modern Southeast Asia**

* Broad overviews of empires in maritime and mainland Southeast Asia.
* Belief systems, with an emphasis on localization and creative synthesis.
* Mainland: Konbaung Dynasty in Burma, Chakri in Thailand, Ngyuen in Vietnam
* Island Southeast Asia: Johor sultanate and the fall of Riau, Java.

1. **Encounters with the Outside World**

* Interactions with different groups.
* Accommodations and adaptations by Southeast Asians.
* Early interactions with Europeans, focusing on the Portuguese and the Dutch, and an examination of how Europeans posed a different kind of challenge for Southeast Asian societies.

1. **Southeast Asia and European Colonizers**

* The establishment of colonial rule and the different colonial economies in different countries.
* Colonial Wars in Burma, Vietnam, Netherlands East Indies – emphasis on the different pace of European encroachment in mainland and in maritime Southeast Asia.
* Colonial economies.
* Colonial Societies: issues of gender, race and ethnicity.
* Examination of the case of Thailand.

1. **Resistance, War and Nationalist Movements**

* Examination of local resistance and rebellions, with a focus on the Hsaya San rebellion in Burma.
* Colonial education policies and their impact.
* Religion as a coalescing factor both in the Philippines and in Burma.
* Different nationalist groups that emerged in specific countries and issues around which they coalesced.
* Impact of Japanese Occupation.

1. **Decolonization, Nation-Building, and Contemporary Southeast Asia**

* Revolutionary Struggles in Indonesia and Vietnam will be examined together.
* Relatively “peaceful” transitions in British Malaya and Burma.
* The Cold War in Southeast Asia.
* Authoritarian regimes, one-party states, and people’s power movements
* Issues of development and modernization
* Old Faiths and New Religions
* Forces of Integration and disintegration

**Course Material**

*Required Books*

Norman Owens (ed.), *Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia: A New History* (University of Hawai’I Press, 2005).

Tran Tu Binh, *The Red Earth: A Vietnamese Memoir of Life on a Colonial Rubber Plantation*, ed. David G. Marr, trans. John Spragens (Ohio University Press, 1995).

Pramoedya Ananta Toer, *This Earth of Mankind* trans. Max Lane (Penguin, 1996).

Other selections will be on reserve.

**Scheduled** Discussions

There are FOUR online discussions and FOUR in class discussions. The online discussions will be asynchronous. Both the instructor and assigned students will pose questions on a discussion board for each discussion. Students enrolled in the class will have to log on, make a comment based on their reading assignments, AND respond to one or more comments by their peers.

The three online discussions are

Online Discussion 1: Encounters with the Outside World (To be completed by end of Week 3)

Online Discussion 2: Colonial Economies (To be completed by end of end of Week 7)

Online Discussion 3: New Nations (To be completed by end of Thanksgiving Break)

# 20 In Class Discussion 1: Colonial Societies

# 27 In Class Discussion 2: Resistance and Nationalist Movements

# 29 In Class Discussion 3: The Impact of World War II and the Japanese Occupation

# 41 In Class Discussion 4: Forces of Integration and Disintegration in Southeast Asia

**Tentative Course Schedule and Reading Assignments**

1. **Introduction**

# 1 *Introduction to the Course*

# 2 *Introduction to the Region*

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, Introduction.

L.Y. Andaya and Barbara W. Andaya, Chapter 1, *Cambridge History of Early Modern Southeast Asia*, forthcoming. [tentative]

1. **Early Modern Southeast Asia**

# 3 - # 5 *State and Society in Early Modern Southeast Asia, c. 1800*

*Consolidation of Mainland Empires: Konbaung, Chakri, Ngyuen*

*Island Southeast Asia: Johor Sultanate and Java*

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, Chs. 2 & 3.

Oto Atshuhi, “‘Pirates or Entrepreneurs?’ : The Migration and Trade of Sea People in Southwest Kalimantan, c. 1770-1820,” *Indonesia* 90 (October 2010): 67-95.

David K. Wyatt, “Southeast Asia ‘Inside Out,’ 1300-1800: A Perspective from the Interior,” in Victor Lieberman (ed.), *Beyond Binary Histories: Re-imagining Eurasia to c. 1830* (University of Michigan Press, 1999), pp. 245-65.

1. **Encounters with the Outside Word**

# 6 - # 7 *Accommodation and Adaptation: Southeast Asians and the World Beyond*

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, Ch. 4.

Leonard Andaya, “Interactions with the Outside World and Adaptation in Southeast Asian Society, 1500-1800,” in Nicholas Tarling (ed.), *Cambridge History of Southeast Asia* Vol. 1, Pt. 2, (Cambridge University Press, 1992), pp. 1-57.

Anthony Reid, *Charting the Shape of Early Modern Southeast Asia*, (Silkworm Books, 1999), Ch. 12, “ ‘Heaven’s Will and Man’s Fault’: The Rise of the West as a Southeast Asian Dilemma,” pp. 246-271.

Nordin Hussin, *Trade and Society in the Straits of Melaka: Dutch Melaka and English Penang, 1780-1830* (NUS Press, 2007), Ch. 4, “Trade in the Straits: Melaka and Penang, 1786-1830,” pp. 105-122.

*Online Discussion 1: Encounters with the Outside World*

1. **Southeast Asia and European Colonizers**

# 8 *Spain and the United States as Colonizers in the Philippines*

Text: Owens, Ch. 11 & Ch. 19, pp. 283-288.

Paul Kramer, “The Water Cure: Debating torture and counterinsurgency – a century ago,” *The New Yorker* Feb 25, 2008, <http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/02/25/080225fa_fact_kramer#ixzz1RvZIIRZ1>

# 9 - # 11 *British Malaya and the Netherlands East Indies*

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, Chs. 9 & 10.

Selections from Pramoedya Ananta Toer, *This Earth of Mankind* trans. Max Lane (Penguin, 1996).

Selections from *On Feminism and Nationalism: Kartini's letters to Stella Zeehandehaar 1899-1903* translated and with an introduction by Joost Coté (Monash Asia Institute, 1995).

# 12 - # 14 *British Burma and French Indochina*

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, Chs. 5, 7, & 8.

George Orwell, “Shooting an Elephant,” in *Shooting an Elephant and Other Essays* (Harcourt Brace, and Javanovich, 1984).

Selections from Truong Buu Lam, *Colonialism Experienced: Vietnamese Writings on Colonialism, 1900-1931* (University of Michigan Press, 2000).

# 15 *The Case of Siam/Thailand*

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, Chs. 6.

Thongchai Winichakul, *Siam Mapped: A History of the Geo-Body of a Nation* (University of Hawai’i Press, 1994), pp. 62-80.

Film: *The King and I*

# 16 *Colonial Economies*

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, Chs. 12 & 13.

Tran Tu Binh, Marr, David G., ed., *The Red Earth: A Vietnamese Memoir of Life on a Colonial Rubber Plantation*, ed. David G. Marr, trans. John Spragens (Ohio University Press, 1995), pp. 1-45.

# 17 Film, *Max Havelaar* (1985)

*Online Discussion 2: Colonial Economies*

# 18 - # 19 *Colonial Societies*

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, Chs. 14-16, Ch. 17, pp. 256-67.

Carl Trocki, “Political Structures in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries,” in Nicholas Tarling (ed.), *The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia* Volume 2 Pt. 1 Cambridge University Press, 1992, pp. 79-130.

Selections from Pramoedya Ananta Toer, *This Earth of Mankind* trans. Max Lane (Penguin, 1996).

Selections from *On Feminism and Nationalism: Kartini's letters to Stella Zeehandehaar 1899-1903* translated and with an introduction by Joost Coté (Monash Asia Institute, 1995).

# 20 ***In Class Discussion 1: Colonial Society***

Ann L. Stoler, “Gender, Race, and Class Boundaries in Southeast Asia,” in Alice L. Conklin, Ian Fletcher (eds.), *European imperialism, 1830-1930 : Climax and Contradiction* (Houghton Mifflin, 1999).

Gouda, Frances, “Gender, Race, and Sexuality: Citizenship and Colonial Culture in the Dutch East Indies,” in Dutch Culture Overseas: Colonial Culture in the Netherlands Indies, 1900-1942(Singapore: Equinox, 1995), pp. 157-193.

Selections from Pramoedya Ananta Toer, *This Earth of Mankind* trans. Max Lane (Penguin, 1996).

Selections from *On Feminism and Nationalism: Kartini's letters to Stella Zeehandehaar 1899-1903* translated and with an introduction by Joost Coté (Monash Asia Institute, 1995).

# 21 Review

# 22 Midterm Examination

1. **Resistance, War and Nationalist Movements**

# 23 *Channels of Change and Early Resistance*

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, Ch. 17.

Excerpt fr Hue-Tam Ho Tai, *Radicalism and the Origins of the Vietnamese Revolution* Harvard University PREss, 1992, pp. 13-26 in Clive Christie (ed.), *Southeast Asia in the Twentieth Century: A Reader* (I.B. Tauris, 1998), pp. 28-37.

Excerpts from Michael Adas, *Prophets of Rebellion: Millenarian Prophet Movements against the European Colonial Order* (University of North Carolina Press, 1979).

Reynaldo Ileto, “Religion and Anti-colonial Movements,” in Nicholas Tarling (ed.), *Cambridge History of Southeast Asia* Vol. 2 Pt. 1 (Cambridge University Press, 1999) pp. 197-248.

Kate Frieson, “Sentimental Education: Les Sages Femmes and Colonial Cambodia,” *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* Vol. 1 No. 1 (2000), http://muse.jhu.edu.eres.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/...nialism\_and\_colonial\_history/v001/1.1frieson.html (3 of 34) [5/26/2011 12:05:52 PM]

# 24 *Nationalism and Anti-colonial movements in the Philippines and Indonesia*

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, Chs. 19 & 20.

Vicente L. Rafael, “Nationalism, Imagery, and the Filipino Intelligentsia in the Nineteenth Century.” in Vicent Rafael (ed.) *Discrepant* *Histories: Translocal Essays on Filipino Cultures* (Temple University Press, 1995), pp.133-158.

Excerpts from Jose Rizal, *Noli Me Tangere* (University of Hawai’I Press, 1997).

Trinidad F. Legarda, “Philippine Women and the Vote” Philippine Magazine, Vol 28, No. 4, (1931), 163-165, 196-200, <http://chnm.gmu.edu/wwh/modules/lesson12/lesson12.php?menu=1&s=2/>

Excerpts from Des Alwi, *Friends and Exiles: A Memoir of the Nutmeg Isles and the Indonesian Nationalist Movement* ed. Barbara S. Harvey (Cornell University Press, 2006).

# 25 *Nationalism and Anti-colonial movements in the British Burma and Malaya*

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, Chs. 21 & 22

# 26 *Nationalism and Anti-colonial movements in French Indochina*

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, Chs. 23, 25 & 26.

Tran Tu Binh, Marr, David G., ed., *The Red Earth: A Vietnamese Memoir of Life on a Colonial Rubber Plantation*, ed. David G. Marr, trans. John Spragens (Ohio University Press, 1995), rest of the book.

# 27 ***In Class* *Discussion 2: Resistance and Nationalist Movements***

Reading Assignment

Assigned readings from # 23 - # 26

Anthony Reid, *Imperial Alchemy: Nationalism and Political Identity in Southeast Asia* (Cambridge University Press, 2010), Ch. 2, “Understanding Southeast Asian Nationalisms,” pp. 25-48.

# 28 Constitutional Revolution in Thailand

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, Ch. 24.

# 29  ***In Class Discussion 3: The Impact of World War II and the Japanese Occupation***

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, Ch. 18.

Alfred McCoy, “Introduction,” in, Alfred W. McCoy, ed., *Southeast Asia Under Japanese Occupation*(New Haven, CT, 1980), pp. 1-11.

Cheah Boon Kheng, “The Social Impact of the Japanese Occupation of Malaya (1942-1945),” in, Alfred W. McCoy, ed., *Southeast Asia Under Japanese Occupation*

(New Haven, 1980), pp. 91-124.

Patricia Lim Pui Huen, “Memoirs of War in Malaya,” in Paul H. Kratoska (ed.), *Malaya and Singapore during the Japanese Occupation* Journal of Southeast Asian Studies Special Publication Series No. 3 Singapore University Press, 1995, pp. 121-47.

Selections from Oral Histories, Singapore National Archives.

Excerpts from Des Alwi, *Friends and Exiles: A Memoir of the Nutmeg Isles and the Indonesian Nationalist Movement* ed. Barbara S. Harvey (Cornell University Press, 2006).

1. **Decolonization, Cold War, and Contemporary Southeast Asia**

# 30 Wars in Indochina

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, Ch. 23, pp. 344-349, Chs. 225 & 26.

Excerpts from Ho Chi Minh, "Declaration of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Viemam, " *Selected* Writings (Hanoi: Foreign Languages Publishing House, 1977), pp. 53­56, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1945vietnam.html>

Selections from Karen Gottschang Turner with Phan Than Hao, *Even the Women Must Fight: Memories of War from North Vietnam* (John Wiley & Sons, 1998).

Excerpt from *No Other Road to Take: Memoir of Mrs Nguyen Thi Dinh*trans. Mai Van Elliott (Data Paper- Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University Southeast Asia Program Data Paper No. 102, 1977).

# 31 - 32 *Communist “Insurgencies” and the Global Cold War in Southeast Asia*

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, pp. 291-95; 431-34.

C.M. Turnbull, “Nationalism and Regionalism,” in Nicholas Tarling (ed.), *Cambridge History of Southeast Asia* Vol. 2 Pt. 2 (Cambridge University Press, 1999), pp. 596-606.

Karl Hack, “The Origins of the Asian Cold War: Malaya 1948,” Journal of Southeast Asian Studies 40, 3 (October 2009), pp. 471-96.

Sunil S. Amrith, “Asian Internationalism: Bandung’s Echo in a Colonial Metropolis,” *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* 6(4)(2005), pp. 557-569

# 33 - 35 *From Authoritarian Regimes to People Power Movements*

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, Ch. 31, pp. 431-447; Ch. 30, pp. 422-428; Ch. 33, & 37.

Albert Lau, “Nation Building and the Singapore Story: Some Issues in the Study of Contemporary Singapore History,” in Wang Gungwu (ed.), *Nation Building: Five Southeast Asian Histories* (Singapore Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2005), pp. 221-250.

*Online Discussion 3*: *New Nations*

# 36 *Killing Fields*

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, Ch. 35.

Film, “Killing Fields”

# 37 - 38 *Nation Building in Newly-Independent States*

Reading Assignments

Text: Owens, Chs. 27 & 28

Excerpts from U Nu, *Burma Looks Ahead* (Ministry of information, Government of the Union of Burma, 1953), pp. 28-39, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1951Nu-burma1.html>.

# 39 - 40 *Old Faiths and New Religions*

Reading Assignments

Muhamad Ali, “Islam in Southeast Asia,” in Jorgen Baek Simonsen, *Politikens Bog Om Islam* (Politiken Forlag, 2008), Ch. 10.

Katharine L. Wiegele, “Catholics Rich in Spirit: El Shaddai’s Modern Engagements,” *Philippine Studies* vol. 54, no, 4 (2006): 495–520.

Greg Fealy, “Consuming Islam: Commidified Religion and Aspirational Piety in Contemporary Indonesia,” in Greg Fealy and Sally White (eds.), *Expressing Islam: Religion and Politics in Indonesia* (Singapore Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2008), pp. 15-37.

Julian E. Schober, “Buddhism in Burma,” in Steven Berkwitz (ed.) *Buddhism in World Cultures: Comparative Perspectives* (ABC-Clio, 2006), pp. 73-100.

Jean DeBernardi, "Malaysian Chinese Religious Culture: Past and Present," in Leo Suryadinata (ed.), *Ethnic Chinese in Singapore and Malaysia: A Dialogue between Tradition and Modernity* (Times Academic Press, 2002), pp. 301-323.

# 41 ***In Class Discussion 4: Forces of Integration and Disintegration in Southeast Asia***

Reading Assignments

M.C. Ricklefs et al, *A New History of Southeast Asia* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), Chs. 13 & 14.

Others to be assigned later.

# 42 *Conclusion and Review*

12/12 or 12/14 Final Exam