

## **ANTH 401D Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia**

### Wintermester 2019

#### **Number of Credits**

3

#### **Instructor**

Michelle Roberts

#### **Catalog Description**

Analysis of representative cultures of Southeast Asia, their origins and development.

#### **Required Textbooks/Materials**

The following texts are required material in this course:

2011. Winzeler, Robert L. *The Peoples of Southeast Asia Today*. Alta Mira Press.  
ISBN 978-0-7591-1863-8

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to

- demonstrate an understanding of the unique physical characteristics of Southeast Asia and the role they play and have played in the lives of the peoples in this part of the world;
- display knowledge of the basic geographical features and political divisions of Southeast Asia;
- develop an understanding of forms of society which exist in Southeast Asia and the ways these societies interact;
- understand the basic cultural features which distinguish Southeast Asia as its own region of inquiry; and
- demonstrate an understanding of the application of contemporary anthropological concepts to a critical in-depth understanding of a modern situation faced by a Southeast Asian society.

#### **First Week of Materials/Assignments**

The following schedule is subject to change:

- January 2:* Topics:  
Introduction to the Course and Geography: Climate (equatorial and monsoon), topography, soils and forests, mainland and insular regions, present-day countries and adjacent regions.
- Readings:  
a. Winzeler Chapter 1 and 2  
b. Bellwood, Peter. 1997. Chapter 1 Environmental Background: Present and Past. In *Prehistory of the Indo-Malaysian Archipelago*. University of Hawaii Press (online).  
c. Extra Credit: Bellwood, 1997 Chapter 2: Homo erectus in Sundaland.
- Important Dates and Assignments:  
**Films:**  
1. The Hobbit (in class—no quiz)  
2. Glories of Angkor
- January 3:* Topics:  
Prehistory and basic ethnology: Settlement patterns, major language groups, migration pathways and major subsistence practices.  
Start: Pre-colonial history
- Readings:  
a. Hendrickson, Mitch. 2011. A transport Geographic perspective on travel and communication in Angkorian Southeast Asia. *World Archaeology*  
b. (Suggested reading) Bellwood, Peter. 2005. The Origin and Dispersals of Agricultural Communities in Southeast Asia. In *Southeast Asia from Prehistory to History*. Glover and Bellwood (Eds.). Routledge Curzon.
- Important Dates and Assignments:  
In class discussion and write-up of Hendrickson reading  
**Films:**  
1. Film clip: Mother Tongues- Austronesian languages (in class- no quiz)  
2. Journeys into Islamic Southeast Asia  
3. Moving Mountains: The Story of the Yiu Mien (found on folkstreams.net)
- January 4:* Topics:  
1. Pre-colonial history: Traditional states, civilizations, world religions and trade; Indic and Sinitic zones of influence (SEA 1-1500 CE).  
2. Colonial History (SEA 1500 CE – WW2).  
3. Post-colonial history (SEA WW2 – present).  
Start: Traditional Subsistence patterns and types of peoples: hunter-gatherers
- Readings:  
Winzeler Chapters 3, 4 and 5  
Xiong, Tou Lia, 2014. "Yellowing the Rice Fields," student paper (online)
- Important Dates and Assignments:  
In class discussion and write-up about Xiong reading

**Films:**

1. Laos: So you think the war is over
2. Batak: Ancient Spirits, Modern World
3. The Sultanate of Jogjakarta
4. Threads of Life

January 7: Topics:

Material culture: Cloth and cloth making and uses. Spinning, dying, weaving, sewing, selling and using cloth. House and House building Start—Indigenous religions: Spirits, spirit possession, notions of “bad death,” reincarnation, practical religion, shamanism, two stage funeral practices, etc.

Readings:

- a. E. F. Anderson, *Plants and Peoples of the Golden Triangle*, “Plant Fibers and Dyes” (pp.157-168).
- b. Winzeler (pp.139-142) Weaving sections
- c. Nguyen Van Ku and Luu Hung. *Funeral Houses in the Central Highlands of Vietnam*: Foreword (pp. 35-37), Introduction and Chapter 1 (pp. 39-59). (\*Subject to Change)
- d. Winzeler Chapter 8

Important Dates and Assignments:

In class discussion and write-up about the Anderson and Nguyen articles

**Films:**

1. Walking with Buddha
2. Tana Toraja to be shown in class

**Course Details**

This course is intended to be a survey of the peoples and cultures of Southeast Asia, both as they were traditionally and as they are now. The region includes the modern countries of Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, and Timor. Throughout the course we will examine the forms of social and cultural pluralism that is characteristic of past and present Southeast Asian societies.

**Grade Breakdown**

The point distribution for the course is:

| <b>Assignment</b>                                                              | <b>Points</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Attendance and Participation                                                   | 11            |
| Current Event Article                                                          | 14            |
| Discussion Summaries and Participation (eighteen readings worth 5 points each) | 90            |
| Reaction Paper/Lead Discussion (two worth 30 points each)                      | 60            |
| Film Quizzes                                                                   | 160           |

| <b>Assignment</b> | <b>Points</b> |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Midterm Exam      | 110           |
| Final Exam        | 90            |
| <i>Total</i>      | <i>535</i>    |

The percentage distribution for the course is:

| <b>Letter</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---------------|-------------------|
| A             | 94–100            |
| A-            | 90–93             |
| B+            | 87–89             |
| B             | 84–86             |
| B-            | 80–83             |
| C+            | 77–79             |
| C             | 74–76             |
| C-            | 70–73             |
| D+            | 67–69             |
| D             | 64–66             |
| D-            | 60–63             |
| F             | below 60          |