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:

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  

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:

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:
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:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Event Article</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Summaries and Participation (eighteen readings worth 5 points each)</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaction Paper/Lead Discussion (two worth 30 points each)</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film Quizzes</td>
<td>160</td>
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<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Points</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>90</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>535</strong></td>
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The percentage distribution for the course is:

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<td>F</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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