

Fall 2020

HUMA 2638 Peoples and Cultures in Mainland Southeast Asia [Daft]

Course Instructor: Ma Jianxiong

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Time & Venue: TBA, Tuesday, 9:00-10:50

Tutorial: TBA, Tuesday, 11:00-11:50

Course Objectives

This course aims to provide students with an interdisciplinary understanding of the cultural diversity in mainland Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. We will examine the complex historical development of majority/minority relations and the formulation of cultural identities among different peoples on this borderland. The dynamic relations among religion, ethnicity, tourism and modernity will be discussed in the context of the region's specific political geography.

Intended Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, students should be able to

- Comprehend dynamic relations of ethnic identities and political geography in mainland Southeast Asia.
- Develop an interdisciplinary perspective on cultural diversity and a macroscopic focus on the course of state formation.
- Develop a critical understanding of concepts of state and identity in our contemporary social life.

Teaching Approach

In this course, we shall emphasize the various cultural influences from India, China and Europe on this crossroad borderland. We shall address how indigenous peoples maintained their dynamic social and cultural strategies in the last several centuries, and the cultural consequences of the transformation to a modern nation-state system that they have been facing. In tutorials, we will examine various case studies. Student presentations in tutorials are emphasized to accelerate their intellectual development.

Assessment

All students are expected to attend lectures and tutorials. Continual assessment accounts for 50% of the marks. Of this 50%, 30% is based on one term paper (10-15 pages) and the other 20% comes from tutorial presentations and participation. The final exam accounts for the remaining 50%.

Textbook and main references

Keyes, Charles F.

1995 *The Golden Peninsula: Culture and Adaptation in Mainland Southeast Asia*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Schedule

Week 1 (Sept. 8). Introduction

Tarling, Nicholas

2001 “Peoples and Identities” in *Southeast Asia: A Modern History*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press. Pp. 1-9.

No tutorial this week.

Week 2 (Sept. 15). Ancient Civilizations

Tarling, Nicholas

2001 “Kingdoms and Super-Kingdoms” in *Southeast Asia: A Modern History*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press. Pp. 10-18.

No tutorial this week.

Week 4 (Sept. 29). Hinduism and Buddhism

Swearer, Donald K.

1981 *Buddhism and Society in Southeast Asia*. Pp. 1-52.

Tutorial (Sept. 29): Presentation organization.

Week 5 (Oct. 6). Colonialism and Western Powers

Osborne, Milton

2004 “The European Advance and Challenge” in *Southeast Asia: An Introductory History*, Singapore: Allen & Unwin. Pp. 70-92.

Tutorial (Oct. 6): Presentation (1)

Week 6 (Oct. 13). Ethnic Conflicts in Borderland Formation

Kramer, Tom

2005 “Ethnic Conflict and Dilemmas for International Engagement” in Martin Jelsma ed., *Trouble in the Triangle: Opium and Conflict in Burma*. Pp. 33-60.

Tutorial (Oct. 13): Presentation (2)

Week 7 (Oct. 20). Cold War and the Golden Triangle

Chin, Ko-lin.

2009 “Introduction”, in *The Golden Triangle: Inside Southeast Asia’s Drug Trade*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press. Pp.1-46.

Tutorial (Oct. 20): Presentation (3)

Week 8 (Oct. 27). Cultures in Highland Southeast Asia

Scott, James C.

2009 “State Evasion, State Prevention: The Culture and Agriculture of Escape. Introduction” in *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. Pp. 179-219.

Tutorial (Oct. 27): Documentary screening

Week 9 (Oct. 31). Cultures in North Thailand

Michael Hitchcock, Victor T. King and Michael Parnwell,
2010 *Heritage Tourism in Southeast Asia*, Copenhagen: NIAS.

Tutorial (Oct. 31). Documentary Screening

Week 10 (Nov. 3). Cultures in Laos and Cambodia

Keyes, Charles

1992 “*Who are the Lue? Revised: Ethnic Identity within the Naitons of Laos, Thailand and China*”, Cambridge: Center for International Studies, MIT.

Tutorial (Nov. 3): Documentary screening

Week 11 (Nov. 17). Nation States and Identities

South, Ashley

2006 “Shifting Identities: Pre-colonial and colonial Burma”, and “State and Society, Grievance and Greed, Ethnicity and Insurgency: World War, Independence and Civil War”, in *Ethnic Politics in Burma: State of Conflicts*. London: Routledge, Pp. 3-46.

Hsu, Francis L. K and Hendrick Serrie

1998 *The Overseas Chinese: Ethnicity in National Context*, Lanham, Md.: University of America.

Tutorial (Nov. 17): Presentation (4)

Week 13 (Nov. 24). Tourism and States

Truong, Thanh-Dam

1990 “Foreign Exchange, Prostitution and Tourism in Thailand”, in *Sex, Money and Morality: Prostitution and Tourism in South-east Asia*. London: Zed Books. Pp. 158-191.

Rugphong Vongsaroj

2019 “Rising China and Tourism of Five Mainland ASEAN Countries”, in Suthiphand Chirathivat ed., *China’s Rise in Mainland ASEAN: New Dynamics and Changing Landscape*, Singapore: World Scientific Co. Pte Ltd.

Tutorial (Nov. 24): Presentation (5)

Week 13 (Dec. 1). Conclusion: Modernity, centers and peripheries

Rigg, Jonathan

2003 “The Experience of Exclusion” in *Southeast Asia: The Human Landscape of Modernization and Development* (Second Edition). London: Routledge. Pp. 139-189.

Tutorial (Nov. 28): Final review on lectures.

The term paper is due on December 7.