

Southeast Asia: From Antiquity to the Modern Era

HISTORY 197

Stanford University, Winter 2009

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Course Overview

Historical investigations of Southeast Asia (the area comprising Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, East Timor, Thailand, Vietnam, Burma, Cambodia, and Laos) are often overshadowed by those of its more populous neighbors, East Asia (China, Japan, and Korea) and South Asia (India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh). Yet Southeast Asia, despite being historically influenced by India, China, and other countries, constitutes an important and distinctive world region in its own right, one marked by its own historical and geographical patterns and processes.

This course explores the full span of Southeast Asian history, from antiquity to the present day. We will begin with an examination of the region's geography before moving on to consider pre-historical processes of settlement and socio-political development. Subsequent topics include the spread of Indian cultural influences, the rise of indigenous states, and the emergence of globally linked trade networks, European colonization, economic transformation, the formation of nationalism, the development of the modern state, and the impact of globalization.

Readings

Readings from the course are taken from three texts, all of which are required. The first, *Southeast Asian History: Essential Readings* (edited by D. R. SarDesai.

Westview Press, 2006) is a compilation of important sources on the region's history, both primary and secondary (designated **SeAH** in the course schedule below). The second text, SarDesai's *Southeast Asia: Past and Present* (fifth edition) (**SeA P&P**; Westview Press, 2003), provides a brief overview of the region's historical development from ancient times to the present day. Our third text, *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia: A New History* (**MSeA**; edited by Norman G. Owens, University of Hawaii Press, 2005), offers much more extensive analysis of the modern period, beginning in the 1700s. All three of these works shift back and forth between examining specific parts of Southeast Asia and the region as a whole.

Course Assignments

A mid-term and a final examination will be given. The mid-term focuses on short answers, identifications, and multiple-choice questions. The final will have two components. The first section will be similar to the midterm, covering the material from the second half of the course, while the second section will be essay-oriented, covering the entire course. Possible essay questions will be circulated during the last week of classes.

Students are also required to complete a **book review** of a major historical monograph on Southeast Asian history. A list of recommended books is appended to the end of the syllabus. If you would like to select a book that is not on the list, please clear your choice with the instructor by the end of January. Reviews are to be approximately six pages in length, and are due on February 26. Note that the reading load is much lighter during the first half of the class than it is during the second half. Please use this period to get a head start on your book reviews.

Participation in weekly discussion sections is also required.

Grading

Mid-Term Examination: 30%

Final Examination: 45%

Book Review: 15%

Section Participation: 10%

Course Schedule (preliminary; subject to change)

<i>Date</i>	<i>General Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
Jan. 6	Defining the Region, Geographical Patterns	SeA P&P, Ch. 1; MSeA, Introduction
Jan. 8	Prehistory	MSeA, Part 1 (read over the next three weeks)
Jan. 13	Early Kingdoms and Cultures (Mainland)	SeA P&P, Ch. 2; SeAH, Ch. 1, 3
Jan. 15	Early Kingdoms and Cultures (Insular)	SeA P&P, Ch.3; SeAH, Ch. 4
Jan. 20	Mainland SE Asia in the Classical Age, 800-1300 CE	SeA P&P, Ch.4
Jan. 22	Insular SE Asia, 1000-1500	SeAH, Ch. 5, 6
Jan. 27	Vietnam to 1700	SeA P&P, Ch. 5; SeAH, Ch. 2
Jan. 29	Philippines to 1750	SeAH, Ch. 8, 9
Feb. 3	Thailand and Burma 1200-1700	SeA P&P, Ch. 6,
Feb. 5	European Impact, 1500-1800	SeA P&P, Ch. 5; SeAH, Ch. 7,10
Feb. 10	MID-TERM EXAM	
Feb. 12	Mainland SEA to the 1930s	SeA P&P, Ch. 11, 15 16; MSeA, Ch. 5, 6
Feb. 17	Dutch Indonesia to the 1930s	SeA P&P, Ch. 7, 14; MSeA, Ch. 9
Feb. 24	British Malaya to the 1930s	SeA P&P, Ch. 8, 18; MSeA, Ch. 10

Feb. 26	French Colonialism and Resistance	SeA P&P, 10, 17; MSeA, Ch. 7,8
BOOK REVIEW DUE		
March 3	The Philippines, late 1700s-1930s	MSeA, Ch. 11; SeA P&P, Ch. 13. 19; SeAH, Ch. 11
March 5	Depression and War	SeA P&P, Ch. 12, 14-18; MSeA, Ch. 16-18;
March 10	Southeast Asia from 1945 to 1960s	SeAH, Ch. 13-18; MSeA, Ch. Part 4
March 12	Southeast Asia from 1960 to 1980	MSeA, Ch. Part 5.

Possible Books for Review

Every year, the Association for Asian Studies gives an award (the Harry J. Benda Prize) for the best book published the previous year in Southeast Asian history; below is a list of recent winners. Please choose one of these books to review; alternatively, if you would like to make a different selection, please clear your choice with the instructor. All of these books should be available in the Stanford Library.

2008: Matthew Cohen: *The Komedie Stamboel: Popular Theatre in Colonial Indonesia, 1891-1903* (Center for International Studies, Ohio University, 2006)

2007: Eric Tagliacozzo: *Secret Trades, Porous Borders: Smuggling and States along a Southeast Asian Frontier, 1865-1915* (Yale University Press, 2005)

2006: Mary Callahan: *Making Enemies: War and State Building in Burma* (Cornell University Press, 2003; Singapore University Press, 2004).

2005: Andrew Hardy: *Red Hills: Migrants and the State in the Highlands of Vietnam* (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies Press/University of Hawaii Press, 2003).

2004: William Cummings: *Making Blood White: Historical Transformations in Early Modern Makassar* (University of Hawaii Press, 2002)

- 2003:** Peter Zinoman: *The Colonial Bastille: A History of Imprisonment in Vietnam, 1862–1940* (University of California Press, 2001)
- 2002:** Mark Bradley: *Imagining Vietnam and America* (University of North Carolina Press, 2000)
- 2001:** Fanella Cannell: *Power and Intimacy in the Christian Philippines* (Cambridge University Press, 1999)
- 2000:** Suzanne April Brenner: *The Domestication of Desire: Women, Wealth, and Modernity in Java* (Princeton University Press, 1998)
- 1999:** Laurie Sears: *Shadows of Empire: Colonial Discourse and Javanese Tales* (Duke University Press, 1997)
- 1998:** Kenneth George: *Showing Signs of Violence* (University of California Press, 1996)
- 1997:** Nancy Florida: *Writing the Past, Inscribing the Future: History as Prophecy in Colonial Java* (Duke University Press, 1995)
- 1996:** Janet Hoskins: *The Play of Time: Kodi Perspectives on Calendars, History, and Exchange* (University of California Press, 1993)
- 1995:** Thongchai Winichakul: *Siam Mapped: A History of the Geo-body of a Nation* (Hawaii, 1994)
- 1994:** Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing: *In the Realm of the Diamond Queen: Marginality in an Out-of-the-Way Place* (Princeton, 1993)
- 1992:** Ann Laura Stoler: *Capitalism and Confrontation in Sumatra's Plantation Belt, 1870–1979* (New Haven, 1985)
- 1991:** Ward Keeler: *Javanese Shadow Play, Javanese Selves* (Princeton, 1987)
- 1989:** Chandra Muzzafar (selected for several books; please choose one)
- 1987:** Victor B. Lieberman (selected for several books; please choose one)
- 1985:** Reynaldo C. Ileto (selected for several books; please choose one)
- 1983:** Renato Rosaldo, *Ilongot Headhunting* (Stanford)