



Cultures of Southeast Asia
Anthropology 3704 DE

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Course Introduction:

Click to watch the [Course Introduction Video](#)  by Professor Kuipers

Description

This class is an introduction to the Cultures of Southeast Asia. Southeast Asia is a large region, home to some of the greatest ethnic and linguistic diversity anywhere in the world. No course can cover all of this variation. Rather than provide a superficial survey of all the peoples and practices, this course aims to interpret the region in terms of historically and culturally pervasive themes, and to illustrate those themes by focusing on certain countries, primarily Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

General Expectations

- Read ALL the assigned materials BEFORE listening to the attached iTunesU audio file and video Power Point.
- Parts of the audio lecture may not make sense if you do not do the reading first. Listen to ALL audio files along with ALL the PowerPoints, in order.
- Complete all assignments on time. Once completed, post them on Blackboard.
- Participate in weekly discussion groups. By “participate” I mean: respond thoughtfully, appropriately and in some depth (2-5 sentences) at least ONCE to the framing question

and to at least ONE of your classmates' comments/questions. In your discussion responses, you may pose your own questions, you may editorialize, you may create links to other materials you have found on the web that are useful and thought provoking. You will be graded for your participation. The guidelines stated above should be regarded as a minimum.

- You will access all readings on Blackboard (except for the textbook readings)
- The Midterm and Final will be posted on Blackboard on the dates in the syllabus and your written responses will be due 24 hours later.

Required Books

- Southeast Asia: A Concise History. Mary Heidhues
- The Intimate Economies of Bangkok: Tomboys, Tycoons and Avon Ladies in the Global City. Ara Wilson
- Islam in an Era of Nation-States. Robert Hefner, ed.
- Paradise of the Blind. Huong
- Goddess on the Rise. Philip Taylor
- Map is optional, but useful: http://www.amazon.com/Southeast-Nelles-English-French-German/dp/3865742564/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1309900442&sr=1-1

Grading

- Short papers 30% (6 pts. each)
- Midterm 25%
- Final 25%
- Participation 20%

Five Short Papers

The short papers (1-2 pages in length) offer you a chance to explore and respond to Southeast Asian cultures in various ways. Five papers are due over the course of the semester, two before the midterm, and three are due after the midterm. The papers should demonstrate comprehension (perhaps with a concise summary of the arguments put forward in some of the readings) and critical reflection on the texts and course themes. It is your responsibility to make sure that you do all five. Late papers will receive a lower grade.

Discussions

All students must participate in five online discussions, around themes related to that week's lectures.

Midterm and Final

The midterm and final will consist of two parts: 1) identification and 2) essay. The final exam will cover the entire course, but will focus primarily on the readings, lectures and theoretical issues of the second half of the course. It will also consist of Ids and Essay questions.

Special Needs or Circumstances

It is the student's responsibility to inform me of any special needs or circumstances that may affect his or her ability to complete coursework in a timely and productive manner. Students with learning disabilities or who may require extra assistance because English is a second language must contact the appropriate services department at the university and inform me of special needs. In case of a personal or family emergency, please notify me in writing/email as soon as possible in advance of any absence or assignment deadline. Absences will only be excused with my permission.

Notes on further reading

I have included recommended readings on this syllabus (see Schedule on the main menu) for students interested in further pursuit of some of the themes, histories, concepts and ethnographic studies covered in this course. Graduate students taking this class are strongly urged to consult these works in development of a final research paper.