This course is designed as an anthropological introduction to societies and cultures in Southeast Asia, the area encompassed today by the nations of Burma (Myanmar), Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, East Timor, and the Philippines. Course readings and lectures will focus on the ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity of the area, as well as on sociocultural themes that transverse this region.

Class lectures will relate to assigned readings, but will also present significant additional information and perspectives, so regular attendance is required. Course evaluation will be based on midterm (30%) and final exams (40%), consisting of short answer and essay questions; a map quiz (20%); and class participation (10%). Students must complete all assignments to pass the course. Students registered with DSS who need accommodations should notify the instructor.

REQUIRED READINGS:


Additional readings accessed through Blackboard (BB). Students can access the web based system Blackboard with their Odin account. If you do not have an Odin account, you can sign up to get one at https://www.account.pdx.edu. Use your Odin username and password to login at https://psuonline.pdx.edu. Please contact the instructor if you encounter difficulties in accessing this resource.

Recommended Reading:

I. Historical and Geopolitical Overview
Sept. 29 Course Introduction
Oct. 1  Southeast Asian Diversity
        Read: Heidhues, Introduction. BB

3  Early Kingdoms
        Read: Heidhues, “Temples and Rice” BB

6  Colonialism and Nationalism
        Read: Potter, chaps. 2-3 (you may skip chapt. 1)

II. Mainland Southeast Asia
Oct. 8  Theravada Buddhism and Rural Buddhist Societies
        Read Potter, Chapt. 4-5

10  Discuss Family Life in Northern Thailand
        Read Potter, Chapt. 6

13 Map Quiz
        Thailand: Change and Continuity
        Read and discuss Mills, “Contesting the Margins of Modernity: Women, Migration and Consumption in Thailand.” BB

15 Ethnic Groups in Burma
        Read: Bertil Lintner, “Myanmar/Burma” BB

17 The Burmese Dictatorship
        Read: Monique Skidmore, “Darker than midnight: Fear, vulnerability, and terror making in urban Burma” BB

20 Laos: Upland and Lowland Divisions
        Read: Stephen Mansfield, “Lao Hill Tribes: A Race With Oblivion” BB

22 Cambodia
        Read: Alexander Hinton, “Why Did You Kill?: Cambodian Genocide and the Dark Side of Face and Honor” BB

24 Cambodia
        Read: Judy Ledgerwood, “Politics and Gender: Negotiating Conceptions of the Ideal Woman in Present Day Cambodia” BB

27 Traditional Society in Vietnam
        Read: Luong, “Gender Relations: Ideologies, Kinship Practices, and Political Economy” BB

29 Postwar Vietnam
Discussion and Review

Nov. 3 Midterm Exam

III. Island Southeast Asia

Nov. 5 Islam in Southeast Asia
    Read: Jean Taylor: “The Chinese and the Early Centuries of Conversion to Islam in Indonesia” BB

7 Indonesia: Java
    Read: Suzanne Brenner, “Why Women Rule the Roost” BB

10 Indonesia: Religion, Ethnicity, and Social Change
    Read and Discuss: Volkman, “Visions and Revisions: Toraja Culture and the Tourist Gaze” BB

12 Malay Kingdoms, British Colonialism and the modern State
    Begin reading Dentan, Malaysia and the Original People

14 Chinese and Indian Immigrant Communities

17 Chinese Malaysian Identities
    Read and discuss Carstens, “What Does it Mean to Be Chinese? Malaysian Chinese Identities in Motion” BB

19 Film: The Three Worlds of Bali

21 Film: Batak: Ancient Spirits, Modern World

24 Discuss Malaysia and the Original People

26 Islamic Fundamentalism
    Read: Peletz, “Ordinary Malays” BB

Dec. 1 Philippine Sociocultural Patterns
    Begin reading Dumont (chapt. 1 is optional)

3-5 Discuss Dumont, Visayan Vignettes

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, Dec. 9, 8 am.

Southeast Asian geographic terms. You will need to be able to locate these places on an empty map of Southeast Asia for your map quiz on Oct. 13th. Places will be identified by letters and numbers in terms of countries, cities, regions, rivers, etc. You should be able to draw a circle around the areas included in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Please keep in mind that
there may be variant spellings to these place names. Most of these places can be found on the map in Heidhues, Introduction (BB) but you will need to look at online maps (cf. worldatlas.com) for a few of the smaller places.

| Burma (Myanmar) | Vietnam   | Sarawak   |
| Rangoon       | Hanoi     | Kuala Lumpur |
| Bangkok       | Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) | Penang |
| Irrawaddy R.  | Red R.    | Malacca    |
| Thailand      | Indonesia | Kelantan   |
| Chiang Mai    | Sumatra   | Singapore  |
| Chao Phraya R.| Java      | Philippines|
| Laos          | Bali      | Luzon      |
| Vientiane     | Sulawesi  | Manila     |
| Cambodia      | Jakarta   | Mindanao   |
| Phnom Penh    | Aceh      | Visayas    |
| Mekong R.     | Kalimantan| Malaysia   |
| Angkor        | Borneo    | Sabah      |
| Tonle Sap     | Brunei    | East Timor |