

Sociology 470
Winter 2008
TTH: 3:30-5:20
128 Condon Hall

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Tel: 543-5035
Off Hrs: MW 12:30 1:20

SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Website:

Course Objectives:

This course is a sociological survey of Southeast Asia—the countries of Burma (Myanmar), Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, East Timor, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Localism and diversity are among the hallmarks of Southeast Asia. Rugged terrain and remote hinterlands gave rise to considerable linguistic, social, and cultural diversity. Yet, calm seas and favorable trade winds have allowed long distance exchange and trade as well movements of peoples within the region and from other parts of Asia. These ecological conditions and history have given some common social and cultural features that define the region. Additional diversity in political and economic forces was created by four centuries of European colonialism from Portugal, Spain, Holland, France, and England. The half century of political independence, less in some cases, has given rise to dynamic socioeconomic change that has transformed the physical and political landscape as well as popular imaginations.

We can scarcely comprehend, let alone understand and analyze the diversity of histories and cultures of Southeast Asia within the constraints of a ten week course. My focus is very selective of topics, time periods, and countries. The content reflects (the limits of) my knowledge and judgment about scholarly research that has enduring value. The focus is more on structural and cultural foundations that have shaped the evolution of modern Southeast Asia than on recent political and economic events.

Readings:

The following books are available from the University Bookstore:

Anthony Reid. 1990. *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce: 1450-1680. Volume 1: Land Below the Winds*. New Haven: Yale University Press. (paperback).

Norman G. Owen. ed. 2005. *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia: A New History*. Honolulu, University of Hawaii Press (paperback).

Clifford Geertz. 1969. *Agricultural Involution: The Processes of Ecological Change in Indonesia*. Berkeley: University of California Press (original publication, 1963).

Additional readings are available online from the course homepage.

Course Format, Evaluation and Grading:

The course will have a seminar rather than lecture format. After the first week, students will prepare overviews, comments, and questions on the readings to post on the course website and

also moderate class discussions. I will make brief presentations from time to time, and also be an active participant in class discussions. I will also post weekly notes and questions on the course website.

There will be a mid term exam on Thursday, February 7th. The mid term will cover the readings for the first five weeks and will also include questions on map identification. The final exam will cover materials from the entire course and is scheduled for 10:30-12:20 pm on Thursday, March 20.

Students in the course must also write a term paper (about 20 pages) due on the last day of the course. Students will also be expected to make presentations on their papers during the last week of the course. Students must make an appointment to meet with me during the first three weeks of a course to discuss possible term paper topics. A one page outline of the term paper with at least five possible references must be handed in by February 19. Final course grades will be computed as a weighted average of the exams (30% for each) and the term paper (40%).

Class Topics and Reading Assignments:

Week 1 (January 8 & 10): Introduction to Southeast Asia: Geography, Ecology, and Peoples

Read:

Owen, Introduction

Reid, Chapters 1 and 2

Wilbur Zelinsky, "The Indochinese Peninsula: A Demographic Anomaly", *Far Eastern Quarterly* 9(1950):115-145.

Week 2 (January 15 & 17): Early Civilizations and Frontiers

Read:

Owen, Chapters 1 and 2

Reid, Chapters 3 and 4

Luis Filipe Ferreira Reis Thomaz. 1993. "The Malay Sultanate of Melaka." In Anthony Reid, ed. *Southeast Asia in the Early Modern World*, pp. 69-90. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Week 3 (January 22 & 24): Social Structure and Culture in the Pre-Colonial World

Read:

Owen, Chapter 3

Reid, Chapters 5

John Embree. 1950. "Thailand – A Loosely Structured Social System." *American Anthropologist* 52: 181-193.Barbara Watson Andaya. 2002. "Localising the Universal: Women Motherhood and the Appeal of Early Theravada Buddhism". *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 33: 1 1-30.**Week 4 (January 29 & 31): The Colonial Advance**

Read:

Owen, Chapter 4 and any 3 additional chapters in Part 2

Clifford Geertz. 1963. *Agricultural Involution*, Chapters 1-5.**Week 5 (Feb 5 & 7): The Imperial Era**

Read:

Owen, Chapters 12-18

Clifford Geertz. 1963. *Agricultural Involution*, Chapter 6.**MID TERM EXAM ON FEBRUARY 7****Week 6 (February 12 and 14): Nationalism, Revolution, and Independence**

Read:

Owen, any 3 chapters in Part 4

Owen, chapters 27 & 28 and any 3 additional chapters in Part 5

Week 7 (February 19 & 21): Demographic Change

Read:

Peter Xenos. 1998. "The Ilocos Coast Since 1800: Population Pressure, the Illocano Disapora, and Multiphasic Response." In Daniel Doeppers and Peter Xenos, eds.

Population and History: The Demographic Origins of the Modern Philippines, pp. 39-70. University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Southeast Asian Studies Monograph 16.

Patrick Heuveline and Bunnak Poch. 2007. "The Phoenix Population: Demographic Crisis and Rebound in Cambodia." *Demography* 45: 405-426.

Kua Wongboobsin, Philip Guest and Vipan Prachuabmoh. 2005. "Demographic Change and the Demographic Dividend in Thailand" *Asian Population Studies* 1: 245-256.

Week 8 (February 26 & 28): Marriage and Family in Southeast Asia

Read:

Gavin W. Jones. 2005. "The Flight from Marriage in Southeast and East Asia" *Journal of Comparative Family Studies* 36:93-119.

Charles Hirschman and Bussarawan Teerawichitchainan. 2003. "Cultural and Socioeconomic Influences on Divorce during Modernization: Southeast Asia, 1940s to 1960s" *Population and Development Review* 29: 215-253.

Sara Peracca, John Knodel and Chanpen Saengtienchai. 1998. "Can prostitutes marry? Thai attitudes toward female sex workers" *Social Science and Medicine* 47: 255-267.

Week 9 (March 4 & 6): Identity and Ethnic Relations

Read:

William Skinner. 1996. Creolized Chinese societies in Southeast Asia. In Anthony Reid, (ed.) *Sojourners and Settlers: Histories of Southeast Asia and the Chinese*. Asian Studies Association of Australia Southeast Asia Publications Series No. 28. Australia: Allen and Unwin, pp. 51-93.

Warren, Jim. 1978. "Who Were the Balangingi Samal? Slave Raiding and Ethnogenesis in Nineteenth Century Sulu." *Journal of Asian Studies* 46: 555-582.

Charles Hirschman. 1987. "The Meaning and Measurement of Ethnicity in Malaysia: An Analysis of Census Classifications." *Journal of Asian Studies* 46(August): 555-582.

Week 10 (March 11 & 13): Student Presentations

FINAL EXAM IS SCHEDULED FOR 10:30-12:20 P.M. THURSDAY, MARCH. 20
