PAAS 171: Modern Southeast Asian Cultures

CLASS SCHEDULE: Wednesday 4:30-7:20pm

INSTRUCTOR: Helen Lansdowne

Office Hours: Wednesday 3:00 – 4:00 and by appointment

Office: Sedgewick C131  Phone: 721-7021

Required Texts:


Supplemental Readings: listed below in Lecture Schedule and can be accessed through the UVic online library catalogue.

General course description:

Examines the development of modern Southeast Asian cultures, paying particular attention to media such as the press, popular music, theatre, film and television.

This is a one-semester course introducing students to Southeast Asia. Much of Southeast Asia's contemporary dynamics have been influenced by the legacy of colonialism and more recently by the effects of the global economy. With this in mind, the course offers a review of early twentieth century anti-colonialism and the development of Southeast Asian nationalism. The second section of the course will focus on the political, social and economic developments in both mainland and island Southeast Asia, with the final section turning to current developmental challenges facing the region. Throughout the semester, materials will be focused on the everyday lives of the various communities of people in Southeast Asia.

Course Objectives:

This course is about one of the world's more troubled regions, one often misunderstood by outsiders. At the same time, the Southeast Asian region has been, in recent years, one of the more dynamic - symbolic of economic and social accomplishments in the late 20th
and early 21st centuries. This course is designed with that dilemma in mind. One of the course objectives is encouraging the analytical skills that enable you to explore such paradoxes.

Southeast Asia's past is more than serial events, confined within set geographic boundaries. Wide-ranging interpretive debates permeate Southeast Asia's 20th century experience. This course will introduce you to a number of these debates. The aim is to acquaint you with differences in interpretation of the region's history and contemporary identity. As students of Southeast Asia, you should be cognizant of choices intellectuals make in what they study and how they study it. You should also be aware of the implications those choices may have, when intellectual study is applied beyond the confines of academe.

**Evaluation:** Students will be evaluated according to the standards and procedures set by the University of Victoria on the basis of the following:

1. **Book Report – 20%**

   A book report critically analyzing *This Earth of Mankind* is due October 31st. Students are expected to read the book and write a 5-6 page (double spaced) book review of the work. A separate handout will be given to students explaining the correct procedure in undertaking a book report.

2. **Mid-Term Examination – 25%**

   A mid-term examination will be given in class. It will consist of three sections: Map Questions, Short Answers and Essay Questions.

3. **Term Paper – 30%**

   A research essay on the topic of popular culture must be completed. Requirements for the term paper will be specified on a separate handout along with a list of topics. You may not submit the same paper for two different classes. Work submitted must be your own. Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment.

4. **Discussion Classes - 5%**

   There is one discussion class listed in this course outline. Students are expected to attend the discussion classes and be prepared to participate with the assigned novel, *This Earth of Mankind* as the focus of discussion. Preparation includes completion of Book Report.

5. **Final Examination – 20%**
The exam will cover materials presented in the course as a whole, though there will be extra emphasis on material presented since the mid-term. The exam will consist of short answer questions and essay style questions.

**Letter Grades** will be assigned according to the following distribution of marks:

- **A+** 90–100
- **A** 85–89
- **A-** 80–84

An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.

- **B+** 77–79
- **B** 73–76
- **B-** 70–72

A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student’s full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.

- **C+** 65–69
- **C** 60–64

A C+ or C is earned by work that indicates an adequate comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities.

- **D** 50–59

A D is earned by work that indicates minimal command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.

**Lecture Schedule**

Three hours per week will be spent in lecture sessions, with some of that time designated for seminar-discussions and audio-visual presentations. Copies of the supplemental readings will be on reserve in the library. The following schedule will provide a guide to lecture topics, readings assignments and important deadlines.

**September 6th** – Introduction and Overview of Course

**September 13th** – Fluidity of Personhood: the Effects of Colonialism
September 20th – Families and their Livelihoods  

September 27th – Crafting the Nation-State  
Chapter 3 Online:  
http://quod.lib.umich.edu.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?c=acls&cc=acls&idno=heb01609.0001.001&node=heb01609.0001.001%3A5&view=image&seq=53&size=100

October 4th - Religious Diversity in Southeast Asia  

October 10th – Mid-Term Exam

October 17th – American War in Vietnam  

October 24th - Genocide in Cambodia, Chaos in East Timor  

October 31st – Popular Culture in Southeast Asia and Discussion  
Assigned Reading: *Everyday Life in Southeast Asia*, Chapters 11-13, pp 177-230; BOOK REPORT DUE

November 1st – Gendered Development  

November 8th – Ethnic Diversity and Globalization  

November 15th – Reading Break

November 22nd – Environmental Consequences of Development  
Assigned Reading: *Everyday Life in Southeast Asia*. Chapters 24, pp 304-316.  
TERM PAPERS DUE

November 29th – Final Exam