

## INTRODUCTION TO SOUTHEAST ASIA

International Studies 103  
Spring Quarter 2007  
Office: 241 Elson  
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T 5:30-8:00 Th 1:00-3:00  
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This course focuses on the countries of Southeast Asia—Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Singapore. We begin with an overview of the ancient kingdoms of the area and the religious traditions--Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam--that were brought to Southeast Asia. The impact of Western colonization and World War II is reviewed. Then we focus on the political aspirations of the peoples of Southeast Asia. Are these countries developing into economic "Tigers" or "Dragons"? What kind of a relationship do these countries have to the powers of Eastern Asia—China, Japan and Korea? Why are students in Burma, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines protesting in the streets?

Imagine your self one of the following three persons: 1) a businessman considering investing in Southeast Asia, 2) a human rights activist or development worker looking for a job in Southeast Asia, or 3) a backpacker taking a year to explore remote areas of Southeast Asia. Will your investment prosper? Will political turmoil breakout and threaten your work and your life? What are the best strategies to promote human rights? Can you safely embark on a trip through Burma or Indonesia or Vietnam? The goal of the course is to provide an introduction to Southeast Asia that enables you to find answers to such questions.

### Grading

Map Quiz	10 points
Midterm	30 points
Web assignment	10 points
Book report (4-5 pages)	30 points
Final essay (4-5 pages)*	20 points
Total	100 points

\*The final examination will be a take-home assignment. There will also be opportunities for extra credit points during the quarter. Assignments must be handed in on time. The penalty for academic dishonesty is a failing grade.

**Text: Mary Somers Heidhues, *Southeast Asia: A Concise History***

**Choose one of the following books:**

- Burma** Pascal Khoo Thwe, *From the Land of Green Ghosts: A Burmese Odyssey* (2003)
- Cambodia** Loung Ung, *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers* (2000)
- Indonesia** Pramoedya Ananta Toer, *This Earth of Mankind* (1980)  
Diana Darling, *The Painted Alphabet* (1992)  
Simon Winchester, *Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded, August 27, 1883* (2004)
- Malaysia** E. Hansen, *Stranger in the Forest: On Foot Across Borneo* (1988)
- Philippines** Alan Berlow, *Dead Season: A Story of Murder and Revenge on the Philippine Island of Negros* (1996)  
Tess Uriza Holthe, *When the Elephants Dance : A Novel* (2002)
- Thailand** John Burdett, *Bangkok 8* (2003)  
Charles Nicholl, *Borderlines* (1989)
- Vietnam** Bao Ninh, *The Sorrow of War: A Novel of North Vietnam* (1991)
- Laos** Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catch You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures* (1997)

Mar	27,29	Introduction
	3,5	Early Southeast Asia / Hindu Bali <b>Heidhues (Chapter 1-2). Thurs: Map quiz</b>
April	10,12	Buddhism and Islam in SEA <b>Heidhues (Chapter 3)</b>
	17 No class on the 19 <sup>th</sup>	Southeast Asia is Colonized <b>Heidhues (Chapter 4)</b>
	24, 26	World War II: Japan and Nationalism <b>Heidhues (Chapter 5)</b>
May	1,3	Philippines and Indonesia <b>Heidheus (Chapter 6-7)</b>
	8,10	Thailand “The Free People” Tuesday: Balinese Puppet Theater
	15,17	Burma, Malaysia and Singapore Choose book from list.
	22,24	Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia Thursday: <b>Book Review Due</b>
	29,31	Globalization and Southeast Asia

**Final Exam: Your take home final exam is due by 8:30 pm on Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. You may turn it in anytime before this.**

**First Assignment:**

Google a country and a topic that you are interested in. See what you can find out. You may have to narrow the topic. Write three pages about what you learned that was interesting and assess the availability of information about this topic on the web.

**Final exam:**

1) You have two months this summer to travel in Southeast Asia. Plan your trip. Where will you go and why did you choose these places. How will you get around? (3 pages).

Week 1 **Early Southeast Asia / Hindu Bali**

Week 2 **Hindu-Buddhist Kingdoms / The Coming of Islam**

Week 3 **Colonial Powers in Southeast Asia**

Week 4 **World War II: Japan in SEA and the Rise of Nationalism**

Week 5 **Malaysia and Singapore**

Week 6 **Burma**

Week 7 **Thailand**

Week 8 **Philippines**

Week 9 **Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia**

Week 10 **Indonesia**