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M/W 12:30 – 1:50
Clark House

PS 91 DOCUMENTING CHANGE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

This course is an advanced seminar that explores the political changes of the late colonial to the contemporary period in Southeast Asia. This course is intended as a interdisciplinary approach to the study of world politics. The readings draw widely from political science, anthropology, history, and literature to situate Southeast Asia as a field of knowledge and power. In this class we will look at the political and cultural inventions that have shaped Southeast Asia as a field of knowledge, beginning with the age of colonial expansion and consolidation of power in the region; to the birth of the nation-state and its various incarnations in the nationalist era; independence, the cold war, civil wars, insurgencies, the development era of the 1970s - 1990s; and current studies of theoretical and socio-political interest. Politics, language, history and modern cultural identities have emerged as the products of cultural change and ingenuity. *Documenting Change in Southeast Asia* acknowledges the shifting landscape engendered by new sites of political power, as well as new sites of theoretical interest. What falls under the lens of scholarship now include the study of race and gender, oral histories, photography, art, film, and studies of technology. Students are invited to consider and debate the frames of reference for each unit theme, and to draw connections between different units. For your final paper, you are encouraged to think comparatively between countries as well as critically on any topic that takes up issues of political modernity in “Southeast Asia.”
Not open to first year students.

Books to purchase at [Food for Thought](#) Book Cooperative:
Benedict Anderson, *Spectre of Comparisons*
Monique Skidmore, *Karaoke Fascism*

All readings marked M are in the Multilith, and readings marked OL are to be found online. Readings from the books are marked P. Recommended readings are NOT included in the Multilith.

Films will be screened on **Thursday** before the Monday class, and **Tuesday** before the Wednesday class. All other films will be streamed online.

Course Requirements:

- Regular class attendance and engaged participation
- Sign up to lead class discussions on a regular rotating basis. This involves generating 2-3 good discussion questions and emailing them to the class by 8 PM the day before.
- Read all assigned materials before our class meeting time
- Two short response papers, a midterm proposal, paper presentation, and final paper

Unit Response Papers: Over the course of the semester, you must complete **two** short response papers (4-5 pages) to two assigned units. The first paper on “Plural Societies” is due SEPTEMBER 24th, and the second paper on “The Margins of the Nation” is due NOVEMBER 5th. In

these papers, you will identify the key concepts of the unit, and address the work of three or more authors you have read from that unit. I encourage you to map out connections between readings, and also draw upon classroom discussions to formulate your response. In these papers, you should not merely summarize these readings. You will read and evaluate the authors' ideas critically, and use evidence from the readings to support your analysis. Everyone **MUST** complete the paper on "Plural Societies." If you are especially keen on writing on another unit for the second paper, in place of "The Margins of the Nations," please discuss it with me at least two weeks before the second paper is due. These papers will count for 40% (20% X 2) of your grade.

Midterm: A proposal for the final paper. You may choose your own topic, but please consult your instructor well in advance of the due date (OCTOBER 15th). You will write a detailed 3 – 4 page abstract of the paper topic, describing key issues and questions to be addressed in the paper. In this abstract, it is not necessary to demonstrate that you know how to answer these questions. At this stage the goal is to develop an interesting and feasible question for your research paper. Please include a bibliography of at least 12 sources that demonstrates that you have done preliminary research on what sources might be relevant for your paper topic. You are encouraged to include at least 6 of the class readings as part of your bibliography, along with outside sources. The midterm proposal is 10% of your final grade.

Paper Presentation Workshop: Students will present their paper topics in class in a ten-minute informal presentation on DECEMBER 8th and 10th. The papers need not be in polished form, but you must clearly outline the question, the main argument of the paper, and the evidence you have collected to support your argument. You are expected to listen carefully and contribute constructive criticism of your classmates' papers when they are presenting. 10 % of grade, includes points for in class participation.

Final Paper: a 10 – 15 page research paper is due on DECEMBER 16th. No late papers will be accepted. Final paper counts for 40% of your final grade. Please follow proper citation guidelines.

DEADLINES:

SEPTEMBER 24	UNIT RESPONSE PAPER 1	20%
OCTOBER 15	MIDTERM PAPER PROPOSAL	10%
NOVEMBER 5	UNIT RESPONSE PAPER 2	20%
DECEMBER 8-10	PAPER PRESENTATIONS	10%
DECEMBER 16	FINAL PAPER	40%

CLASS SCHEDULE

I. Introduction to Southeast Asia

Sept. 3.

- "Changing Names", pp.xvii-xxiii. In *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia*. Ed. Norman G. Owen. (M)

Sept. 8. Locating Southeast Asia

- Paul Kratoska, Remco Raben, and Henk Schulte Nordholt, Introduction to *Locating Southeast Asia: Geographies of Knowledge and Politics of Space* (Leiden: KITLV Press, 2005), pp.1-15. (M)
- T.N. Harper, "'Asian Values' and Southeast Asian Histories" in *The Historical Journal* 40, 2, (1997): 507 – 517. (M)
- Benedict Anderson, "Introduction" to *The Spectre of Comparisons*, pp.1-26. (P)

Recommended Reading:

Vicente L. Rafael, "The Cultures of Area Studies in the United States" in *Social Text* 41 (1994): 91-111.

Sept. 10. Map Quiz!

- Chapters 14, 15, 16 in *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia*. Pp. 201-251. (M)

II. Plural societies: Colonial Fantasies of Southeast Asia

FILM: *Mother Dao, the turtlelike* [videorecording]: a cinematographic image of the Dutch-Indies, 1912-c.1933 / by Vincent Monnikendam. This film will be screened twice on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 113 Fayerweather, at 4 and 7:30 pm.

Sept. 15.

- Jean Gelman Taylor, *The Social World of Batavia* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1983) Introduction (pp. xvii-xxii), Chapters 2-3, pp. 33 – 77. (M)
- J.S. Furnivall, "The Plural Society" in *Colonial Policy and Practice: a Comparative Study of Burma and Netherlands India*. Pp. 303-318. (M)
- Benedict Anderson. "Census, Map, Museum" in *Imagined Communities*. (M)

Sept. 17. Racial Typologies

- Frank Swettenham, *British Malaya*, pp.133-157. (M)
- Syed Hussain Alatas. *The Myth of the Lazy Native* (London: F. Cass, 1977), selections: Chapter 2 "British Image of the Malays in the late 19th century and 20th century"; Chapter 3 "The image of the Filipinos during the 17th to the 19th century"; Chapter 4 "The Image of the Javanese from the 18th to the 20th Century"; Chapter 7 "The Indolence of the Filipinos"; Chapter 8 "The Colonial Image and the Study of National Character." (M)

Sept. 22. Race and Gender

- Jean Gelman Taylor, *The Social World of Batavia*, Chapters 5-6, pp. 114-158. (M)
- Ann Stoler. *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002) Chapter 1 (pp.1-13), Chapter 2. (M)
- Nerissa Balce. "The Filipina's Body: Savagery, Docility, and the Erotics of the American Empire" in *Social Text* 87, Vol.24, No.2, Summer 2006. (M)

FILM: *Indochine*. This film will be streamed online.

Sept. 24.

- Homi Bhabha, “Of Mimicry and Man: The Ambivalence of Colonial Discourse” in *Tensions of Empire: Colonial Cultures in a Bourgeois World*, eds. Frederick Cooper and Ann Laura Stoler (Berkeley: UC Press, 1999), pp.152-160. (M)
- Vincent Mahieu/Tjalie Robinson, “The Fence” in *The Hunt for the Heart* (Singapore: OUP, 1995), pp.26-38. (M)
- Pramoedya Ananta Toer. “Flunky and Housemaid,” translated short story, in *Tales from Jakarta* (Ithaca: Cornell SEAP Publications, 1999) (M)

Recommended reading:

Daniel Lev. “Yap Thiam Hien and Aceh” in *Indonesia* 82 (October 2006)

FIRST UNIT RESPONSE PAPER DUE IN CLASS, SEPTEMBER 24th

III. Nationalism and Revolution**Sept. 29.**

- Ho Chi Minh, *On Revolution: Selected Writings* (New York: Frederick A. Praeger, 1967). Preface (v – xiii), 8-17, 24-26, 33-36, 143 – 145 (Declaration of Independence). (M)
- Benedict Anderson. “Nationalism, Identity, and the Logic of Seriality” in *The Spectre of Comparisons*. (P)
- Anthony D. Smith, “The Origins of Nations”, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 12, 3 (July 1989), 340-367. (M)

Oct. 1.

- Christopher Bayly and Tim Harper. “1945: The First Wars of Peace”, Chapter 4 in *Forgotten Wars: Freedom and Revolution in Southeast Asia* (Cambridge: Harvard U.Press, 2007), pp. 137 – 189. (M)

Recommended reading: Clifford Geertz. “Integrative Revolution” in *The Interpretation of Cultures* (New York: Basic Books, 1973)

Oct. 6. Nationalism, continued.

- Benedict Anderson. “The Goodness of Nations” in *The Spectre of Comparisons*. (P)

Class assignment: A chance to do some online or library research. Bring to class an especially fitting example (case study) of contemporary nationalist or patriotic behaviour in contemporary Southeast Asia that matches, complements, or contradicts Anderson’s analysis in this essay. Each student will discuss his or her example for about five minutes. Discuss the connections that can be made with Anderson’s text.

Oct. 8. The End of Revolution

- Christopher Bayly and Tim Harper. “1949: The Malayan Revolution”, Chapter 10 in *Forgotten Wars: Freedom and Revolution in Southeast Asia* (Cambridge: Harvard U.Press, 2007), pp. 407-456. (M)
- Excerpts from Jan Banning’s photobook – *Traces of War* (London: Trolley Books). (M)

Oct. 11-14. Fall Break

MIDTERM PROPOSAL DUE IN CLASS, OCTOBER 15th.

IV. Violence and the State

Oct. 15.

- Hannah Arendt, *On Violence*. Selections. TBD
- John Roosa, "Introduction" in *Pretext for Mass Murder*. Pp. 3 – 33. (M)
- Ann Stoler, "On the Uses and Abuses of the Past in Indonesia: Beyond the Mass Killings of 1965", *Asian Survey* 42(2), 2002. Pp. 642-650. (M)

Oct. 20.

- Benedict Anderson, "Withdrawal Symptoms", Chpt. 7 in *Spectre of Comparisons* pp.139-191. (P)
- Tyrell Haberkorn, "Thailand's State of Impunity." Read article **online**: <http://www.opendemocracy.net/article/thailand-s-state-of-impunity>
- Thongchai Winichakul, "Remembering/Silencing the Traumatic Past: The Ambivalent Memories of the October 1976 Massacre in Bangkok." In *Cultural Crisis and Social Memory: Modernity and Identity in Thailand and Laos*. Edited by Shigeharu Tanabe and Charles Keyes. (Honolulu: UH Press, 2002) pp. 243-286. (M)

Oct. 22.

- Monique Skidmore, *Karaoke Fascism*

Oct. 27.

- *Karaoke Fascism* continued.

V. Irregular Landscapes: the Boundaries of the Nation

Oct. 29.

- Benedict Anderson. "Majorities and Minorities", Chpt.15 in *Spectre of Comparisons*. Pp. 318-330. (P)
- Pascal Khoo Thwe. *From the Land of the Green Ghosts: A Burmese Odyssey*. Pp. 1-19, 108-197. (M) (new pages, mark change)

Nov. 3.

- Anna Tsing. *In the Realm of the Diamond Queen* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993), Opening, Chapter 2. Pp. 1-37, 73-103. (M)
- Arjun Appadurai. "The Production of Locality," in *Modernity at Large*. (M)
- J. Peter Brosius "The Forest and the Nation: Negotiating Citizenship in Sarawak, East Malaysia" in *Cultural Citizenship in Island Southeast Asia*, ed. Renato Rosaldo (Berkeley: University of California Press), pp.76-133. (M)

Nov. 5.

- Benedict Anderson. “Long-Distance Nationalism” in *The Spectre of Comparisons*. (P)
- Aihwa Ong. *Flexible Citizenship* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000), chapter 2, “A ‘Momentary Glow of Fraternity’” pp.55 – 83. (M)
- Jason Deparle, “A Good Provider is one who leaves”, *New York Times Magazine*, April 22, 2007. (M)

Recommended reading:

Aihwa Ong, “The Family Romance of Mandarin Capital,” chapter 5 in *Flexible Citizenship*.

SECOND UNIT RESPONSE PAPER DUE IN CLASS, NOV. 5.

VI. Space and Image in Contemporary Southeast Asia

Nov. 10.

- Eva Lotta Hedman. “Malling Manila” in *Philippine Politics and Society in the Twentieth Century: Colonial Legacies, post-colonial trajectories*, eds. Eva-Lotta Hedman and John Sidel (Routledge 2001: 118-139). (OL)
- Kathleen M. Adams, “Global Cities, Terror, and Tourism: The Ambivalent Allure of the Urban Jungle” in *Postcolonial Urbanism: Southeast Asian Cities and Global Processes*, eds. Ryan Bishop, John Phillips, Wei Wei Yeo (New York: Routledge, 2003), pp.37-57. (M)
- Robert Templer, *Shadows and Wind: A View of Modern Vietnam*. (New York: Penguin Books, 1998), chapters 2-3, pp. 8-46. (M)

FILM: *Cyclo* (Vietnam, Tran Anh Hung, 1995). This film will be streamed online.

Recommended readings:

Rudolf Mrazek, “Bypasses and Flyovers: approaching the metropolitan history of Indonesia.” *Social History* Vol.29 No.4, November 2004. *Highly recommended!*

Mandy Thomas, “Spatiality and political change in urban Vietnam” in *Consuming Urban Culture in Contemporary Vietnam*, eds. Lisa B.W. Drummond and Mandy Thomas (London: RoutledgeCurzon, 2003)

Nov. 12.

- Roland Barthes. *Camera Lucida* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1980), pp.3-21. (M)
- Karen Strassler, “Photographs and the Making of Reformasi Memory”, in *Beginning to Remember*, ed. Mary S. Zurbuchen (Singapore: Singapore University Press, 2005), pp.278-311. (M)

Recommended Reading:

Lisa Drummond, “Popular Television and images of urban life” in *Consuming Urban Culture in Contemporary Vietnam*

Nov. 17.

- Rachel Harrison, “Introduction: cinema as an emerging field in South East Asian Studies” in *South East Asia Research*, 14, 2, pp.133-146. (M)
- May Adadol Ingawanij, “Un-Thai *sakon*: the scandal of teen cinema” in *South East Asia Research*, 14, 2, pp. 147-177. (M)

FILM: *Tears of the Black Tiger*. This film will be streamed online.

Nov. 19. Class Cancelled due to AAA meetings

Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 22-30

VII. Technology

Dec. 1. Technology and Politics

- Paul Virilio. "The Vision Machine", Chpt.5 in *The Vision Machine* (Bloomington: Indiana U. Press, 1994). (M)
- Raymond Williams, " 'Industrial' and 'Post-Industrial Society'" in *The Year 2000* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1983), pp. 83-101. (M)
- Marshall McLuhan, "Culture without Literacy" in *Media Research: Technology, Art, Communication*, ed. Michel A. Moos. (M)

Dec. 3.

- Vincente Rafael. "The Cell-Phone and The Crowd: Messianic Politics in the Contemporary Philippines" in *Public Culture* 15, no.3 (2003). (M)
- Joshua Barker. " Indonesia in the Satellite Age" in *Current Anthropology* Vol.46, Issue 5 (December 2005). (M)

Recommended reading:

David Hill and Krishna Sen. *The Internet in Indonesia's New Democracy*

Dec. 8: Paper Presentations

Dec. 10: Paper Presentations

Dec. 16: Final Papers DUE.