Fall 2020

HUMA 2638  Peoples and Cultures in Mainland Southeast Asia [Daft]

Course Instructor: Ma Jianxiong
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Time & Venue: TBA, Tuesday, 9:00-10:50
Tutorial: TBA, Tuesday, 11:00-11:50

Course Objectives
This course aims to provide students with an interdisciplinary understanding of the cultural diversity in mainland Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. We will examine the complex historical development of majority/minority relations and the formulation of cultural identities among different peoples on this borderland. The dynamic relations among religion, ethnicity, tourism and modernity will be discussed in the context of the region’s specific political geography.

Intended Learning Outcomes
On completion of this course, students should be able to
• Comprehend dynamic relations of ethnic identities and political geography in mainland Southeast Asia.
• Develop an interdisciplinary perspective on cultural diversity and a macroscopic focus on the course of state formation.
• Develop a critical understanding of concepts of state and identity in our contemporary social life.

Teaching Approach
In this course, we shall emphasize the various cultural influences from India, China and Europe on this crossroad borderland. We shall address how indigenous peoples maintained their dynamic social and cultural strategies in the last several centuries, and the cultural consequences of the transformation to a modern nation-state system that they have been facing. In tutorials, we will examine various case studies. Student presentations in tutorials are emphasized to accelerate their intellectual development.

Assessment
All students are expected to attend lectures and tutorials. Continual assessment accounts for 50% of the marks. Of this 50%, 30% is based on one term paper (10-15 pages) and the other 20% comes from tutorial presentations and participation. The final exam accounts for the remaining 50%.

Textbook and main references
Keyes, Charles F.
Schedule

Week 1 (Sept. 8). Introduction
Tarling, Nicholas
   No tutorial this week.

Week 2 (Sept. 15). Ancient Civilizations
Tarling, Nicholas
   No tutorial this week.

Week 4 (Sept. 29). Hinduism and Buddhism
Swearer, Donald K.
   Tutorial (Sept. 29): Presentation organization.

Week 5 (Oct. 6). Colonialism and Western Powers
Osborne, Milton
   Tutorial (Oct. 6): Presentation (1)

Week 6 (Oct. 13). Ethnic Conflicts in Borderland Formation
Kramer, Tom
   Tutorial (Oct. 13): Presentation (2)

Week 7 (Oct. 20). Cold War and the Golden Triangle
Chin, Ko-lin.
   Tutorial (Oct. 20): Presentation (3)

Week 8 (Oct. 27). Cultures in Highland Southeast Asia
Scott, James C.
   Tutorial (Oct. 27): Documentary screening
Week 9 (Oct. 31). Cultures in North Thailand
Michael Hitchcock, Victor T. King and Michael Parnwell,
2010 Heritage Tourism in Southeast Asia, Copenhagen: NIAS.
Tutorial (Oct. 31). Documentary Screening

Week 10 (Nov. 3). Cultures in Laos and Cambodia
Keyes, Charles
1992 “Who are the Lue? Revised: Ethnic Identity within the Nations of Laos,
Thailand and China”, Cambridge: Center for International Studies, MIT.
Tutorial (Nov. 3): Documentary screening

Week 11 (Nov. 17). Nation States and Identities
South, Ashley
2006 “Shifting Identities: Pre-colonial and colonial Burma”, and “State and
Society, Grievance and Greed, Ethnicity and Insurgency: World War,
London: Routledge, Pp. 3-46.
Hsu, Francis L. K and Hendrick Serrie
1998 The Overseas Chinese: Ethnicity in National Context, Lanham, Md.:
University of America.
Tutorial (Nov. 17): Presentation (4)

Week 13 (Nov. 24). Tourism and States
Truong, Thanh-Dam
1990 “Foreign Exchange, Prostitution and Tourism in Thailand”, in Sex, Money
Rugphong Vongsaroj
2019 “Rising China and Tourism of Five Mainland ASEAN Countries”, in
Suthiphand Chirathivat ed., China’s Rise in Mainland ASEAN New
Dynamics and Changing Landscape, Singapore: World Scientific Co. Pte
Ltd.
Tutorial (Nov. 24): Presentation (5)

Week 13 (Dec. 1). Conclusion: Modernity, centers and peripheries
Rigg, Jonathan
2003 “The Experience of Exclusion” in Southeast Asia: The Human Landscape of
139-189.

Tutorial (Nov. 28): Final review on lectures.

The term paper is due on December 7.