

INTRODUCTION TO SOUTHEAST ASIA

History, Geography, Political Science, Sociology, South Asian Studies 244
Fall 1992
MWF 11-12 pm
Humanities 1111

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Southeast Asia is a region that today consists of ten independent nations: Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia (Kampuchea), Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, each with its own history, cultural complexities, and political and socio-economic conditions. This course is intended to provide a general introduction to this region and to explore several topics and themes relating to its past and present. The textbook for the course will be:

Southeast Asia: Past and Present, by D. R. SarDesai
(2nd edition, 1989).

This book is available at People's Bookstore (458 W. Gilman). The textbook will be supplemented with readings in the form of a coursepack that will be sold at the Humanities Copy Center (in the basement of the Humanities Building). Students are advised to acquire copies of the textbook and the coursepack as early as possible during the semester.

Students will also be required to read three short literary works by Southeast Asian authors. They are:

The Girl From the Coast, by Pramoedya Ananta Toer (Indonesian)
Voices From the Thai Countryside, by Samruan Singh (Thai)
Tree, by F. Sionil Jose (Filipino)

These three books will also be available at the People's Bookstore, and will be the basis of a writing project to be described in a separate handout.

Grades in this course will be based on the following.

- 1) midterm examination (25%)
- 2) final examination (40%)
- 3) writing project based on the three literary works above (25%)
- 4) attendance and participation in the discussion section (10%).

The midterm examination will be on October 9th (Friday, during class), the writing projects should be submitted in class by December 7th (Monday), and the final examination will be, as scheduled, on December 17 (Thursday at 12:25 pm).

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

* - indicates materials available in the coursepack

September 2, 4, 9

Introduction to the Geography, Environment, and Ethnic Diversity of Southeast Asia

READINGS: *Selected Newspaper Clippings on Southeast Asia;
*M. Osborne, "What is Southeast Asia?" in Southeast Asia: An Introductory History (1984): 1-15;
D. SarDesai, Southeast Asia: Past and Present, 3-19.

September 11-14

The Classical States of Southeast Asia to ca.1300

READINGS: D. SarDesai, Southeast Asia, 20-47;
*S. Tambiah, "The Galactic Polity in Southeast Asia" in Culture, Thought and Social Action (1985): 252-286.

September 16-23

Traditional States and Societies to ca.1800

READINGS: D. SarDesai, Southeast Asia, 48-59, 70-79;
*A. Reid, "Physical Well-Being" in Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce, 1450-1690 (1985): 11-61;
*V. Lieberman, "The Structure of Early Modern Southeast Asian History, c.1350-c.1830" (typescript): 1-37;
*A. Reid, "The Islamization of Southeast Asia" in Historia, ed. by M. Abu Bakar, A. Kaur, and A. Z. Ghazali (1984): 13-33;
*C. Keyes, "Development of Theravada Buddhist Civilization in Mainland Southeast Asia" in The Golden Peninsula (1977): 65-90;
*K. Hutterer, "The Social Nature of Late Pre-Hispanic Philippines" (1985): 1-12;
*V. Rafael, "Confession, Conversion, and Reciprocity in Early Tagalog Society" Comparative Studies in Society and History (April 1987): 320-339;
*A. Reid, "Social Organization" in Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce, 1450-1690 (1985): 120-172.

September 25-30

Religions and Religious Life

READINGS: *D. Steinberg, et al., "Religious Life and Leadership" in In Search of Southeast Asia (1987): 37-47;
*C. Geertz, "Santri Versus Abangan" in The Religion of Java (1960): 121-130;
*H.T.H. Tai, "Religion in Vietnam: A World of Gods and Spirits" in Vietnam: Essays on History, Culture and Society (1985): 22-39;
*A. T. Kirsch, "Complexity in the Thai Religious System: An Interpretation" Journal of Asian Studies (February 1977): 241-266;
*J. Bulatao, "Split-Level Christianity" (1969): 1-18.

VIDEO: Turumba (the story of how the quest for profits of a small family enterprise disrupts traditional social and religious life in a Philippine town)

October 2-7

Early Colonial Advances to ca.1800

READINGS: D. SarDesai, Southeast Asia, 60-69.

October 9 - MIDTERM EXAMINATION

October 12-14

Establishing Colonial Rule: Conquest and Resistance

READINGS: D. SarDesai, Southeast Asia, 83-134.

SPECIAL COLUMBUS DAY FILM (October 12): **Max Havelaar** (a classic story of colonialism and resistance in 19th century Java as viewed from the eyes of a reform-minded colonial official)

October 16

Colonial States of the Early 20th Century

October 19-23

Economic and Social Transformations

READINGS: *D. Steinberg, et al., In Search of Southeast Asia (1987): 203-244.

October 26

Nationalism and Social Change to 1940

READINGS: D. SarDesai, Southeast Asia, 137-141, 193-194.

October 28

The Pacific War and the Japanese Occupation

October 30 - November 2

Vietnam: Nationalism, Communism, and the Anti-Colonial Struggle

READINGS: D. SarDesai, Southeast Asia, 177-185, 189-192;

*D. Marr, "Vietnam: Harnessing the Whirlwind" in Asia - The Winning of Independence, edited by R. Jeffery (1981): 162-207.

November 4-6

The Vietnam Wars and Post-1975 Indochina

READINGS: D. SarDesai, Southeast Asia, 265-293;

*D. Pike, "Vietnam in 1991: The Turning Point" Asian Survey (February 1992): 74-81;

*S. Johnson, "Laos in 1991: Year of the Constitution" Asian Survey (February 1992): 82-87;

*F. Brown, "Cambodia in 1991: An Uncertain Peace" Asian Survey (February 1992): 88-96.

November 9-13

The Philippines: Elite Democracy and Authoritarian Rule

READINGS: D. SarDesai, Southeast Asia, 142-156, 197-212;

*B. Anderson, "Cacique Democracy in the Philippines: Origins and Dreams" New Left Review (June 1988): 3-31;

*A. Brillantes, "The Philippines in 1991: Disasters and Decisions" Asian Survey (February 1992): 140-145.

November 16-20

Thailand: Monarchy, Military and the Quest for a More Democratic Society

READINGS: D. SarDesai, Southeast Asia, 172-176, 224-233;

*B. Anderson, "The Historical Context" in In the Mirror (1985): 12-40;

*S. Bunbongkarn, "Thailand in 1991: Coping with Military Guardianship" Asian Survey (February 1992): 131-139.

November 23-30

Indonesia: From Sukarno's Guided Democracy to Suharto's New Order

READINGS: D. SarDesai, Southeast Asia, 157-165, 234-245;

*A. Reid, "Indonesia: Revolution Without Socialism" in Asia - The Winning of Independence, edited by R. Jeffrey (1981): 113-157;

*D. McKendrick, "Indonesia in 1991: Growth, Privilege, and Rules" Asian Survey (February 1992): 103-110.

November 27 - Thanksgiving Recess (No Class)

December 2-4

Changing Economies and Foreign Relations in the 1980s and 1990s

READINGS: D. SarDesai, Southeast Asia, 294-299.

FILM: The Global Assembly Line ("The human story behind the new global workplace," including conditions in the Philippines)

December 7

The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia, special lecture by Alfred McCoy, Department of History

READINGS: *A. McCoy, The Politics of Heroin, ix-xx, 1-23.

December 9

The Hmong in America

VIDEO: Hmong Tapestry (a dramatization of the history and current situation of the Hmong in the U.S., written and performed by Hmong high school students in Minnesota)

December 11

Pop Music in Indonesia, special lecture by Jennifer Munger, Department of Anthropology

December 14

Singing the "Revolution" Against Marcos: Protest and Popular Music in the Philippines