

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Department of History  
Fall 2001

**HISTORY 755: ISSUES IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN HISTORY BEFORE 1800**  
Monday 3:30-5:30 Rm. 5257 Humanities Thongchai Winichakul

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Located between the Chinese and Indic civilizations, Southeast Asia has been a region of striking diversity where indigenous cultures encountered and were enriched by the world's major influences (from major religions like Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Confucianism to Westernization) for more than two thousand years. Yet what makes the region distinctive is the subtle commonality of local polities and cultures. The complex traditions which have shaped the history of the region are very much alive today despite colonization and Westernization since the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

This class explores major themes and topics in the history of the region before 1800 rather than a chronology or narrative of major events in individual countries. No prior knowledge is required. Nonetheless, students are expected to work hard to help themselves familiar with basic names, events, and chronology, especially of the countries of their interest. The enthusiasm to learn other cultures and to study the unfamiliar, thus difficult, materials, is required. Imagination is needed.

**Office Hours** M 12:30-14:00; 5211 Humanities. Ph.263-8931 Email: [twinicha@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:twinicha@facstaff.wisc.edu)

**Required Textbooks** (available in the Reserves and for purchase at the University Book Store).

- Tarling, Nicholas (ed.). *The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia : From Early Times to c. 1500* Cambridge Univ Press, 2000

- Tarling, Nicholas (ed.). *The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia : From c. 1500 to c. 1800* Cambridge Univ Press, 2000

- Wolters, O.W. *History, Culture, and Region in Southeast Asian Perspectives*, revised edition, Ithaca: Southeast Asia Program Publications, Cornell University, 1999

- Reid, Anthony. *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce 1450-1860, Volume One: the Lands Below the Winds*. Yale University Press.

- Reid, Anthony. *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce 1450-1860, Volume Two: Expansion and Crisis*. Yale University Press.

**Recommended Texts**

Higham, Charles. *The Archaeology of Mainland Southeast Asia*. Cambridge University Press, 1989.  
Victor Lieberman ed. *Beyond Binary Histories: Re-imagining Eurasia to c. 1830*. Univ of Michigan Press, 1999.

**Readings:** Every week students must do at least the Required Readings (\*\*). The **Recommended** ones (\*) should be read in case students cannot find the required. Most required materials can be found in the textbooks (available in the Reserves and for purchase at the bookstore). In addition to the original journals, many required and recommended **articles** can also be found under Thongchai Winichakul, *History 755 Reader* or *History 457 Reader* of previous years in the Reserves.

**Assignments** (Details to be discussed in the first meeting)

1. Weekly reading and discussion. Attendance and participation in class discussion is important.
2. Creating a syllabus of the history of ONE country in Southeast Asia from early times to 1800
3. One research papers (approx. 20 pages)

## COURSE SCHEDULE

**Week 1 of the semester:** school starts on Tuesday Sept 4.

**Week 2 (Sept 10)** Introduction to the course

- The course: objectives, scope, contents, assignments, reading materials, and other class business.
- What is history? 1) The past and its legacies in the present; 2) the writing: interpretations and concepts based on evidence.
- Southeast Asia: Diversity and similarity

\*\*Reid, Anthony. Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce 1450-1860, vol. 1, 1-119

\*Emmerson, Donald. "What's in the Name 'Southeast Asia'?" Journal of Southeast Asian Studies [JSEAS], 15 (1984): 1-21.

**Week 3 (Sept 17)** Geography, prehistory, the earlier polities, and the question on "Indianization VS. Localization"

### *Geography*

\*\*Please study a good topographical atlas of Southeast Asia, paying attention to river systems, valleys and deltas, highlands, rainfalls.

### *About prehistory and early polities*

\*\* One of the following (or both if you can)

- Tarling (ed.), Cambridge History of Southeast Asia : From Early Times to c. 1500, chap 2 by Peter Bellwood. (Try to get the main points, not the technical details)
- Charles Higham. Archaeology of Mainland Southeast Asia. 15-30, 153-189, 233-238.

### *Indianization vs. Localization*

\*\*Coedes. The Indianized States of Southeast Asia, 14-35 (also in History 755 Reader, Fall 1998)

\*\*Wolters, O.W. History, Culture and Region in Southeast Asia Perspectives, 15-26, 41-67, 107-125.

\* Hall, K. The Maritime Trade and Early History of Southeast Asia, 1-25.

**Week 4 (Sept 24)** The classical "states" (Pagan and Angkor), and the 13th-14th c. transition

\*\* Tarling (ed.), Cambridge History of Southeast Asia : From Early Times c. 1500, pp. 137-172 (chap 3 by Keith Taylor and chap 4 by Kenneth Hall)

Or \*\* David Wyatt, "Relics, Oaths, and Politics in Thirteenth century Siam", Journal of Southeast Asian Studies 32:1 (Feb 2001): 3-66.

\* Higham. Archaeology of Mainland Southeast Asia, 307-355.

\* Wolters. History, Culture and Region, 27-40.

\* Kulke, Hermann. "The Early and Imperial Kingdoms in Southeast Asian History," in Southeast Asia in the 9th to 14th, 1-22.

\* Hall, K. Maritime Trade, 78-102, 169-93

\* Coedes. Making of South-East Asia, 121-34 (about the 13<sup>th</sup> c. transition)

[*What was a "state"?: kingdom, empire and mandala* – to be discussed during week 4-6]

\*\*Wolters, O.W. History, Culture and Region in Southeast Asia Perspectives, 27-40, 126-154.

\*\*Kulke, Hermann. "The Early and Imperial Kingdoms in Southeast Asian History," in Southeast Asia in the 9th to 14th, 1-22 (also in History 755 Reader, Fall 98)

\*\* Day, Tony. "Ties That (Un)Bind: Families and States in Pre-modern Southeast Asia" Journal of Asian Studies, 55, 2 (1996): 384-409.

\*\* Taylor, Keith. "Surface Orientations in Vietnam: Beyond Histories of Nation and Region", Journal of Asian Studies, 57, 4 (1998): 949-978.

**Week 5 (Oct 1)** Consolidation and Expansion in the Mainland (15th-18th c.)

\*\* Lieberman, Victor. "Local Integration and Eurasian Analogies: Structuring Southeast Asian History," Modern Asian Studies 27, 3 (1993): 475-572.

\*Tarling (ed.).The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia: From c. 1500 to c. 1800, chap2 by Barbara Watson Andaya

\* Taylor, Kieth W. "Nguyen Hoang and the Beginning of Vietnam's Southward Expansion," in Southeast Asia in the Early Modern Era. ed. Reid, 1993. 42-65.

**Week 6 (Oct 8)** The Age of Commerce (15th-17th c.): Empires, Expansion and Crisis

\*\*Reid. Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce, vol. 2. 1-61, 204-266

\*Tarling (ed.).The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia: From c. 1500 to c. 1800, chap3 by Reid

**Week 7 (Oct 15)** Power, kingship, and moral legitimacy

\*\* Anderson, Benedict. "The Idea of Power in Javanese Culture," in Culture and Politics in Indonesia ed. Claire Holt, pp.1-69. (also in History 755 Reader).

\*\* Heine-Geldern, Robert. Conceptions of State and Kingship in Southeast Asia.

\* Wolters. History, Culture and Region, 93-95, 226-228, 107-125.

**Week 8 (Oct 22)** Guest lecture by Peter Boomgard on population in pre-colonial SEA  
(Reading list will be provided later)

**Week 9 (Oct 29)** Social classes: lords, bonded people, slaves, aliens and foreigners

*About bondage and slavery*

\*\* Reid, Anthony. ed. Slavery, Bondage and Dependency in Southeast Asia. 1-43

\* Reid. Age of Commerce, vol.1. 120-28, 137-172.

\* Reid. Age of Commerce, vol.2. 62-93, 114-131.

*About the Chinese and other foreigners*

\*\* Tarling (ed.).The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia: From c. 1500 to c. 1800, chap 1 by Leonard Andaya, (first half of the chapter)

\*\* Gungwu, Wang, "A Short History of the Nanyang Chinese", in Community and Nation: China, Southeast Asia and Australia, 1992, pp. 11-39.

\* Reid, Anthony ed., Sojourners and Settlers: Histories of Southeast Asia and the Chinese, 1996. See the articles by Anthony Reid (15-50), G. William Skinner (51-93), Leonard Blussé (148-163), and Mary Somers Heidhues (164-182).

*About women*

\* Barbara Andaya, "Women and Economic Change: the Pepper Trade in Pre-modern Southeast Asia", Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient, 38, 2 (May 1995):165-190.

**Week 10 (Nov 5)** No Class

**Week 11 (Nov 12) Religions**

\*\* Tarling (ed.) Cambridge History of Southeast Asia : From Early Times c. 1500, chap5 by de Casparis and Mabbett

\*\* Tarling (ed.).Cambridge History of Southeast Asia: From c. 1500 to c. 1800, chap4 by Barbara Andaya and Yoneo Ishii

\* Reid. Age of Commerce, vol. 2. 132-201.

\* Wolters, O.W. "Khmer 'Hinduism' in the Seventh Century," in Early Southeast Asia ed. Smith and Watson. 427-42.

\* Hue-Tam Ho Tai. "Religion in Vietnam: A World of Gods and Spirits," Vietnam: Essays on History, Culture and Society. ed. David W.P. Elliott, 1985. 22-39.

**Week 12 (Nov 19) Transition at the dawn of the colonial period**

\*\* Tarling (ed.).The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia: From c. 1500 to c. 1800, chap 1 by Leonard Andaya, (the second half of the chapter)

\*\* Tarling (ed.).The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia: From c. 1500 to c. 1800, chap 5 by Kathirithamby-Wells

\* Reid. Age of Commerce, vol.2. chap. 5 (267-325).

\* Kathirithamby-Wells, "Restraints on the Development of the Merchant Capitalism in Southeast Asia before 1800", in Southeast Asia in the Early Modern Era: Trade, Power and Belief. ed. Anthony Reid, 1993, pp.123-148

**Week 13 (Nov 26) (Topic to be determined later)**

**Week 14 (Dec 3) Historiography: questions on historians' perspectives**

\*\* Reynolds, Craig. "A New Look at Old Southeast Asia," Journal of Asian Studies, 54, 2 (1995): 419-446.(Also in History 755 Reader, Fall 98)

\* Aung-thwin, Michael, "The 'Classical' in Southeast Asia: the Present in the Past" Journal of Southeast Asia Studies 26, 1 (March 1995):75-91.

\*\* Taylor, Keith. "Surface Orientations in Vietnam: Beyond Histories of Nation and Region", Journal of Asian Studies, 57, 4 (1998): 949-978.

\* Wolters. History, Culture and Region, postscript IV pp. 155-175

\* Wolters, O.W. "Southeast Asia as a Southeast Asian Field of Study", Indonesia 58 (Oct 94): 1-17.

**Week 15 (Dec 10) If needed**