

Spring 2005: *History 755 Seminar in Southeast Asian History*

Thailand Seminar: Modern Thai History

Monday 3:30-5:30, 5257 Humanities

This seminar is essential for students who are interested in Thailand either for their research or part of broader Southeast Asian studies. The seminar consists of the chronological topics in the first half of the semester, and selected thematic topics in the second half. [These thematic topics will be decided later – either ones that those more advanced students in the class chose to focus on for their individual researches or topics provided in Thongchai's Working Bibliography].

Structure of the course:

1. Weekly class for discussion: This is required for every student except those who have decided, and allowed, to do the 100% individual study separately.
2. Individual meetings for those who (by the first half of Feb) decide to do the "individual study" track within this course. This can be 100% (without going to the weekly class) or can be additional to the weekly class with specified priority.

Assignments

1. Attending the class with weekly questions or arguments: Every week students must post to the entire class (by email, no later than midnight of Sunday before the class) 1-2 critical questions/arguments pertaining to the week's topic for the class to discuss. The questions must NOT be factual ones. Rather, they should involve historical analyses and interpretations. Students need not have answers to their own questions. A controversial or uncommon argument is welcome. An argument does not need to be long – a short passage is enough, for clarification later in the class. Students must check emails on Monday before class and prepare to discuss some of them as you can. (Class attendance and participation in discussion 50%)

2. Comments on a primary source: Each student must choose an important primary source (document, a set of photos, news materials, or others), preferably one in Thai that is relevant to your own research paper, and write a 5 page comment on the source (background, context, how significant, in what ways, how to use and not to use it for a historical study, etc.) An English version of the source is acceptable only from a few who do not study Thai. Due the same time as the research paper. (10%)

3. One research paper, approx. 20 pages. Consultations on topics until getting approval must be done before the recess. Final paper due May ... (40%)

Preparation for the weekly class:

1. Readings: Given the small number of students, there is no text book for purchase at local bookstores. Students are on your own if wanting to purchase any books. Readings for each topic are listed in the "Working Bibliography for Modern Thai History". Students must choose from those materials, finding ones that are available in the libraries, or online journals, or from TW (as the last resort). Read at least 120-150 pages per week by Sunday before creating the weekly questions/ arguments.

2. Chronology: Create your own chronology of the events relevant to the weekly topics. Make it a habit. This is not a mandatory assignment, but a "tip" for studying. It will help

you understand each period better. *The weekly class discussion assumes that students know the basic chronology of each period or thematic topic.*

Schedule (The topic codes below refer to the Working Bibliography on Modern Thai History that is sent to students separately)

Week 1	Jan 24	Class business
Week 2	Jan 31	C2
Week 3	Feb 7	C3
Week 4	Feb 14	C4, C5 (& T5)
Week 5	Feb 21	C6, C7 (& T7, T4)
Week 6	Feb 28	C8 (& T3)
Week 7	Mar 7	C9, C10
Week 8	Mar 14	C11, C13
Week 9	Mar 21	Spring Recess
Week 10	Mar 28	
Week 11	Apr 4	Thai Studies conference at NIU
Week 12	Apr 11	
Week 13	Apr 18	
Week 14	Apr 25	
Week 15	May 2	

Special instruction for the first class Mon Jan 24

Based on whatever you know about Thai history, *what is the question in modern Thai history that you most curiously want to know/understand? Why curious?* One question only.

Send the question via email to the class before midnight, Sunday, Jan 23.