Module Syllabus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>SE 2222</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module Title</td>
<td>Southeast Asia in Context</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester</td>
<td>Summer Semester 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modular Credit(s)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-requisites</td>
<td>Acceptance via the Summer School Southeast Asia in Context special term programme. No previous background in Southeast Asian Studies or Anthropology is required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Southeast Asian Studies Programme, FASS, NUS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecturer</td>
<td>Assistant Professor Dr Pattana Kitiarsa</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Office: AS3, Level 6, Room 06-04</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Telephone: 6516-6588</td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:seapk@nus.edu.sg">seapk@nus.edu.sg</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting Schedule</td>
<td>Everyday from 10-12 A.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>23/07/2009 (Thursday); 10-12 A.M.</td>
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Module Description:
This module introduces students to the transformations of ethnic, religious, national and regional identities in Southeast Asia across time as seen from a variety of perspectives. Students will have the opportunity to learn about: the region's archaeology, seafaring trade and the meanings of its ancient monuments; the major religions of Buddhism, Islam, Christianity and "Animism" and how they figured in movements for change since the 19th century; the modern management of cultural resources and the impact of tourism; and recent anthropological studies with attention on new themes and the ways Southeast Asian societies are understood from the region itself.

Aims and Coverage:
This is an exposure module concentrating on Southeast Asian studies. Students will gain knowledge and acquire some critical thinking skills through readings, lectures, assignments, films, as well as intensive fieldtrips to Cambodia and Thailand. Its primary aim is to introduce students to aspects of historical forces and processes, which have constructed and transformed a collection of new nation states arbitrarily drawn together from geographical and ethnocultural diversities into an emerging region. This module trains students to develop some critical aspects of scholarly gaze and imagination of Southeast Asian cultures, including history, economy, politics, religion, modernization, gender culture, and migration.

This module is organized around the theme that Southeast Asia’s diverse cultural worlds are historically, geopolitically and culturally constructed and contested. Anthropology, history, and other social science disciplines have played their crucial roles in the long processes of ethnographic construction/representation, and contestation of the region.

This module emphasizes on two main purposes: (1) rethink Southeast Asia as a culturally diversified and complex contact zones and (2) reflect and develop some critical thinking concerning some particular cultural issues in the region.
Contents:
The module’s contents are divided into 2 parts.

Part I (Lecture #1-4) provides students with general historical and theoretical perspectives pertinent to the anthropological making of the region. Reading materials emphasize colonial pasts, political and cultural forces, and actors who had shaped the region.

Part II (Lecture #5-9) deals with discussion on specific aspects and topics of Southeast Asian cultural constructions. Key topics in this section include religion, gender, globalization, migration, and democratization. This part aims to uncover the contemporary cultural world of Southeast Asia.

Lecture # 1 (June 23, 2009) The Making of Contemporary Southeast Asia
Lecture # 2 (June 24, 2009) The Colonial Constructions of Southeast Asia
Lecture # 3 (June 25, 2009) Elite Modernizers and the Births of New Nations
Lecture # 4 (June 26, 2009) Cold War and Its Multiple Traumas
Lecture # 5 (June 29, 2009) Religion and Society in Southeast Asia
Lecture # 6 (June 30, 2009) Being Men, Women, and Transgenders
Lecture # 7 (July 1, 2009) Globalization and Southeast Asia’s Moving Subjects
Lecture # 8 (July 6, 2009) Works and Lives of Migrant Workers
Lecture # 9 (July 7, 2009) The Politics of Democratization
Lecture # 10 (July 22, 2009) Concluding Remarks

Teaching Modes:
This module is run in a lecture/seminar format. Lecture and active classroom participation are major modes of teaching for this module. Class discussion is both encouraged and required. In order to help facilitating discussion, students are required to study reading materials in advance. Films will be shown and discussed in details during the lectures.

Assignments:
There are three types of assignments throughout the course of this module.
1. Reflection essay for tutorial discussion (20%). Each student is required to write a short essay (not exceeding 1,000 words) in order to prepare him/herself for the classroom discussion. Articles or readings sets will be assigned for particular classroom meeting. In the essay, students must summarize key ideas from at least one set of readings and discuss well-supported arguments. A hard copy of the essay must be handed in at the end of class meetings and no late submission will be accepted. Each student must write a total of 2 pieces of reflection essays. Essays are assigned on Lectures # 3 and 6. (Due Dates: 25, and 30 June 2009)
2. An ethnographic assignment on getting to know a Southeast Asian people (15%). This is an exercise for students to learn about an individual life as multi-vocal ethnographic texts. The basic idea of this assignment is for students to appreciate Southeast Asian studies through a story. Students are required to select a Southeast Asian native person of any nationality besides his or her own and interview aspects of their life
story (e.g., education, political ideas, migrant experiences, works, gender and sexuality, religious identities, etc.). Write an essay (not more than 2,000 words) to reflect on how each of you has learned about Southeast Asia through the world of an individual. Students may want to write from some comparative perspectives comparing the interviewee’s life with his or her own backgrounds. (Due Date: 7 July 2009).

3. Fieldtrip report (40%). This is a collective assignment for both Summer School modules. Students are advised to choose cultural themes emerging during a series of fieldtrips in Cambodia and Thailand. Each student should keep diary field notes during the trips and use them to form a basis for a coherent essay. Reflection and thematic comments informed by key theoretical concepts from each student are expected in the report. The report should contain no more than 5,000 words and a hard copy is required. (Due Date: 22 July 2009).

For the final examination (20%), students are required to sit in a written final examination (20%) on July 23, 2009 (10.00-12.00 a.m.). For this module, there are two given questions and students must choose to answer one.

Further details on the class assignment will be announced in the module IVLE.

Evaluation:
The module evaluation combines both continuing assessment and examination.

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance and participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection essays (2)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment on learning about Southeast Asian life</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fieldtrip Report</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Reading Materials

**Lecture # 1 (June 23, 2009) The Making of Contemporary Southeast Asia**


**Film: Lost World: Angkor Wat** (CVC14668, 49 minutes)

**Lecture # 2 (June 24, 2009) The Colonial Constructions of Southeast Asia**

Film: *The Price of Spice: The Conquest of Indonesia* (CVC8283, 50 minutes)

**Lecture # 3 (June 25, 2009) Elite Modernizers and the Births of New Nations**


Film: *Siam Renaissance* (2004)

**Lecture # 4 (June 26, 2009) Cold War and Its Multiple Traumas**


Film: *S21: the Khmer Rouge’s Killing Machine* (CDV1411, 101 minutes)

**Lecture # 5 (June 29, 2009) Religion and Society in Southeast Asia**


Film: *Of Rites and Rituals* (CDV4129; 24 minutes)

**Lecture # 6 (June 30, 2009) Being Men, Women, and Transgenders**


Film: **Beautiful Boxer** (2004; CDV3715; 118 minutes)

**Lecture # 7 (July 1, 2009) Globalization and Southeast Asia’s Moving Subjects**

Film: **The Call Home** (2001; 23 minutes)

**Lecture # 8 (July 6, 2009) Works and Lives of Migrant Workers**

Film: **The Amahs of Hong Kong** (1995; CVC11197; 11 minutes); **Forest Brothels in Singapore** (2005; 13 minutes)

**Lecture # 9 (July 7, 2009) The Politics of Democratization**

Film: **Journey into Thailand: Strength of the Land** (1986; CVC4046; 29 minutes)

**Lecture # 10 (July 22, 2009) Concluding Remarks**
No readings required.