

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

HIS 588: East Asian History Selected Topics – Trade and State Formation in Southeast Asian History

Spring Semester 2011

M 3:30pm- 6:20pm

MHRA 2206

Instructor: James A. Anderson

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Course web site: <http://www.uncg.edu/~jaander2/HIS588>

Office Hours: TR 11:00-11:50 a.m., and by appointment

Introduction:

Most interested students in the West may only be familiar with the nations of contemporary Southeast Asia (Brunei Darussalam, Burma or Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) in the context of the modern trade opportunities or against the backdrop of the various wars and episodes of political violence that plagued Southeast Asia throughout the twentieth century. However, these countries are, in fact, heirs to long histories of cultural brilliance and diversity. This region has also sustained rich natural environments, on which much of the world has long depended. In this class we will explore the social and political conditions, particularly during the Age of Imperialism, from which the individual modern Southeast Asian nations emerged. Specifically, we will consider how a shared history of commodity exchange in this region has shaped the collective political character of these nation-states. This class begins with the premise that history is guided by interdependent influences of population, environment, economics, and culture. Following these themes, we will distinguish human enterprise from the natural history of Southeast Asia, and so gain some understanding of the manner with which political or economic change will occur in this region in the future.

Students taking this course should reach the following goals by the end of the semester:

- Construct persuasive written arguments regarding issues of historical interpretation.
- Utilize the latest methods of Web-based technology to communicate with fellow students.
- Understand better the effect the ancient past has had on the modern world.
- Exhibit self-motivation and self-expression by exploring and asking questions regarding historical topics beyond personal life experiences.

Course Requirements

I expect all students to attend and participate in all discussion sections. More than three absences during the course of the semester, for any reason, will result in a failing grade. Moreover, the completion of all written assignments is necessary for a passing grade. No "incompletes" will be given for this class. Please remember to plan ahead! I will also require that all students establish e-mail accounts with Internet access. This course will occasionally involve interaction between the instructor and students outside of the lecture period. Please set up these accounts as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Grading (Undergraduates)

Annotated bibliography (4-5 pages)	20%
Class presentation	10%
Historiographical essay (8-10 pages)	40%
Class participation	30%

Grading (Graduate students)

Historiographical essay (15-20 pages)	50%
Class presentation	20%
Class participation	30%

Annotated bibliography

All undergraduate students will produce short annotated bibliographies as their first written assignments. All graduate students will supply annotated bibliographies with their final historiographical essays. An annotated bibliography is a list of books, articles, and documents, in which each entry is followed by a brief description of the source itself. These descriptions, or annotations, are provided to advise the reader on the accuracy and usefulness of the materials you have cited in your bibliography. For a better sense of what it entails to create an annotated bibliography, I urge everyone to visit the Cornell University Library's web page "Annotated Bibliography Tutorial" at <http://www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citing/bibtut> This page contains a very good overview of the process.

Web Site contributions

This class is served by a companion Blackboard site, through which you may access all the on-line e-reserves. Here students can access course information, such as scheduled events (i.e. the syllabus you now hold in your hand), as well as terms mentioned in lecture. I will also list links to web sites of interest to our class. Please refer to the class site periodically for such materials. I urge everyone to visit the Jackson Library's "Help With Research" web-page (<http://library.uncg.edu/research/>) and the Cornell Library site "Introduction to Research" (<http://www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/intro#2Findingbooks,articles,andothermater>) before "surfing" through these on-line materials. View the tutorials on the UNCG library site, and pay close attention to the "Evaluating resources" section of the Cornell Library web-page. Moreover, I include additional materials on the library's Electronic Reserve list. Please refer to the class Web site periodically for such materials.

Class presentations

All students will be required to present to the class a short summary and salient points from their final essays. We will discuss the nature of these presentations later on in the course.

Historiographical Essay

An historiographical essay is a critical overview of a variety of historical interpretations of an oftentimes narrowly focused topic. Such essays can take different forms, and we will discuss these forms during this course. As an example, I will place one of my own essays from graduate student days on e-reserve. Please remember that the quality of your writing, particularly the clarity and persuasiveness of your argument, will factor into the final grading. Late papers will be penalized half a letter grade for each day beyond the original due date.

Classroom Discussions

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are very important components of this course. Everyone will be required to participate, and you should feel free to ask questions in every class. Each student will come to class having read the texts and prepared to discuss them. To facilitate discussion I will ask for volunteers to prepare short summaries (1-2 paragraphs), short but detailed outlines (no more than 1 page) and two discussion questions for these chapters/articles to stimulate class discussion. When a reading has been assigned to the entire class, then everyone, including the week's volunteers, will prepare the above submissions for each required reading. These outlines will be posted to the course Blackboard site. I will also not hesitate to call on all students to participate. However, you should feel free to speak with me before class, if you find it difficult to speak in a public setting. In that case, you may submit your questions before each class in writing.

Required Titles:

1. Scott, James C. *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009.
2. Andaya, Leonard Y. *Leaves of the Same Tree: Trade and Ethnicity in the Straits of Melaka*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2008.
3. Reid, Anthony. *Imperial Alchemy: Nationalism and Political Identity in Southeast Asia*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2010
4. Sheriff, Abdul. *Dhow Culture of the Indian Ocean: Cosmopolitanism, Commerce and Islam*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2010.
5. Kang, David C. *East Asia Before the West: Five Centuries of Trade and Tribute*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2010.

For “background reading,” please consider the following source:

Chandler, David, and Norman G. Owen. *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia: A New History*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2005.

All other materials for this course will be available on electronic reserve at the course Blackboard site.

Reading Schedule:

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
INTRODUCTION	
January 10: Course “nuts and bolts” and topical introduction	Film: <i>Spice Island Saga</i>
Monday 17 January	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Classes dismissed; offices closed.
STATE FORMATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA	
January 24: Defining Characteristics of Southeast Asian Society and Politics. Geographical & Economic Features of Southeast Asia.	Readings: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scott, James C. <i>The Art of Not Being Governed</i> (Chapters 1-5) 2. Hutterer, Karl L. “People and Nature in the Tropics” in Hutterer et al. <i>Cultural Values and Human Ecology in Southeast Asia</i> (on reserve). 3. McNeely, Jeff and Jeffrey Sayer. “Shifting Cultivation” in Collins, N. Mark, Jeffery Sayer and Timothy C. Whitmore (eds.). <i>The Conservation Atlas of Tropical Forests: Asia and the Pacific</i> (on reserve).
January 31: Defining Characteristics (cont.).	Readings: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scott, James C. <i>The Art of Not Being Governed</i> (Chapters 6- concl.) 2. Slamet-Velsink, Ina. ”Connections Between Pre-history and the Ethnographic Present “in <i>Emerging Hierarchies</i> (on reserve). 3. Day, Tony. “Ties That (Un)Bind: Families and States in Premodern Southeast Asia” <p>Film: <i>Three Worlds of Bali</i></p>
HISTORICAL ISSUES OF ETHNIC AND CULTURAL IDENTITIES	

<p>February 7: Imperial China's relations with and Impressions of the Cultures of East and Southeast Asia.</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kang, David C. <i>East Asia Before the West</i> 2. Chandler, David P. "The Beginnings of Cambodian History" in <i>A History of Cambodia</i> (on reserve). 3. Qing, Cao. "Selling culture: ancient Chinese conceptions of 'the other' in legends"
<p>February 14: Inter-related Cultures of Southern China and Mainland Southeast Asia; the Political Influences of Buddhism and Confucianism.</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kang, David C. <i>East Asia Before the West</i> 2. R.B. Smith, "The Cycle of Confucianization in Vietnam" (on reserve). 3. Swearer, Donald. "Buddhism as a Civil Religion" in the <i>Buddhist World of Southeast Asia</i> (on reserve).
<p>TRADE AND TRADE NETWORKS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA</p>	
<p>February 21: Classic States of Southeast Asia, AD 1000-1500.</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sheriff, Abdul. <i>Dhow Culture of the Indian Ocean</i> 2. Aung-Twin, Michael "Spirals in Early Southeast Asian and Burmese History" (on reserve). 3. O'Connor, Richard. "Agricultural Change and Ethnic Succession in Southeast Asian States." <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> (on reserve). <p>Film: <i>Dance of the Warriors</i></p>
<p>No class meeting on February 28th</p>	<p>Day reserved for undergraduate student conferences regarding annotated bibliographies</p>

SPRING BREAK: March 5, Saturday - Instruction Ends for Spring Break 1:00 p.m

March 14, Monday - Classes resume after Spring Break 8:00 a.m

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
THE COLONIAL EXPERIENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA	
<p>March 14: Classic States of Southeast Asia, AD 1000-1500 (cont.).</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sheriff, Abdul. <i>Dhow Culture of the Indian Ocean</i> 2. Hall, Kenneth R. "Multi-Dimensional Networking: Fifteenth-Century Indian Ocean Maritime Diaspora in Southeast Asian Perspective" (on reserve). 3. Bernstein, William. "The Baghdad-Canton Express: Asia on Five Dirhem a Day" in <i>A Splendid Exchange</i> (on reserve).
<p>MONDAY, March 14th</p>	<p>UNDERGRADUATES' ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE IN CLASS</p>
<p>March 21: Late Classical Period and Early European Encroachments. The Coming of Islam.</p>	<p>Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Andaya, Leonard Y. <i>Leaves of the Same Tree</i> 2. Reid, Anthony. "Continuity and Change in the Austronesian Transition to Islam and Christianity" in <i>The Austronesians: Historical and Comparative Perspective</i> (on reserve). 3. Lape, Peter V. "Historic Maps and Archaeology as a Means of Understanding Late Precolonial Settlement in the Banda Islands, Indonesia" (on reserve). <p>Film: <i>East of Krakatoa</i></p>
<p>March 28: Early European Encroachments (cont.).</p>	<p>Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Andaya, Leonard Y. <i>Leaves of the</i>

	<p><i>Same Tree</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Irwin, Graham. "Malacca Fort" in Michael Adas (ed.) <i>Technology and European Overseas Enterprise: Diffusion, Adaptation, and Adoption</i> (on reserve). 3. Loth, Vincent C. "Armed Incidents and Unpaid Bills: Anglo-Dutch Rivalry in the Banda Islands in the Seventeenth Century" (on reserve).
NATIONALISM AND NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA	
April 4	NO CLASS
<p>April 11: Southeast Asian Response to Colonial Expansion, ca. 1900-1990's.</p>	<p>Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reid, Anthony. <i>Imperial Alchemy</i> 2. Rafael, Vincent L. "Nationalism, Imagery, and the Filipino Intelligentsia in the Nineteenth Century." in <i>Critical Inquiry</i> (on reserve). 3. Maxwell, Allen R. "Headhunting and the Consolidation of Political Power in the Early Brunei State" in Janet Hoskins (ed.) <i>Headhunting and the Social Imagination in Southeast Asia</i> (on reserve). <p>Film: <i>From the Barrel of a Gun</i>.</p>
<p>April 18: Southeast Asian Response (cont.).</p> <p>Class Discussion ends at 5pm.</p>	<p>Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reid, Anthony. <i>Imperial Alchemy</i> 2. Schneider, Andreas. "Nationalism, National Awakening and Ethnic Approaches in Laos at the End of World War II" in Thomas Engelbert et al. (eds.) <i>Ethnic Minorities and Nationalism in Southeast Asia</i>

	(on reserve). 3. Carsten, Janet. "The Politics of Forgetting: Migration, Kinship and Memory on the Periphery of the Southeast Asian State" in <i>The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute</i> (on reserve).
April 18: 5:15pm-6:20pm	Class Presentations
April 25:	Class Presentations
MONDAY, APRIL 25th	GRADUATE ESSAYS DUE
MONDAY, APRIL 25th	UNDERGRADUATE ESSAYS DUE
MONDAY, APRIL 25th	LAST DAY
	OF HIS 588 CLASSES