

ILAS 225
Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World
Fall 2011

Still Gym 207
Tues/Thurs 12:30-1:45

Course Instructor: Laura Iandola
Office: Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Pottenger House
Office Hours: 2:00-4:30 Tuesdays/Thursdays, and by appointment
Email: lauraiandola@yahoo.com

Southeast Asia, for centuries the “crossroads” for trade and contact between China and India, is a diverse and dynamic region. Home to an extraordinary mix of ethnicities, languages, and religions, the region’s history embodies major themes in world history, from colonialism to modernization, decolonization, and the Cold War. Southeast Asia also presents the opportunity to examine critical global issues such as genocide and human rights, environmental challenges, and globalization. To survey these topics in a mere fifteen weeks necessitates choices, omissions, and compression.

Through interactive lectures, readings, and discussions, students will gain an understanding of Southeast Asia’s culture, history, and politics. Guest lecturers will provide opportunities for students to hear world-class scholars discuss their research and experience in Southeast Asia. ILAS 225 meets the general education requirement for interdisciplinary studies.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students begin the course with an overview of Southeast Asia, Clark Neher’s *Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World*. A short-answer book test on the first half of the text will be given at the end of the second week of class.

There are two examinations, a midterm and a final, which will cover lectures, assigned readings, discussion topics and documents, and films. Lectures are significant, and students are expected to take careful notes on the information that is unique to this format. Class time is set aside to review for exams. The first exam will include a map quiz. Make-up exams are offered only in cases of documented emergencies and with the consent of the instructor.

Three document-based group discussions will focus on the topics of Sharia law (week 4), Vietnam’s “American War” (week 9), and the Indonesian genocide of 1965-66 (week 11). Students will be assigned collections of documents for each discussion, posted on Blackboard, which they will read and bring to class. In small groups they will engage with a series of questions on the documents. A document analysis paper of 5-6 pages is required on one of the three topics, due two weeks after the group discussion.

Attendance is essential and will be taken at each class meeting. Any missed classes beyond a first absence will result in a loss of four points. Excused absences must be documented and approved by the instructor. Basic civility is mandatory, which means late arrival, early departure, texting and cell phone use, and conversation not directed to the class will not be tolerated and will cause students to lose additional points.

Students will be able to earn up to 20 points of extra credit by attending a lecture, event, or exhibit on Southeast Asia, each of which can garner 5 points. These opportunities will be announced and posted on Blackboard. To receive the extra credit, a three-page summary/response paper must be turned in within one week after the event.

Grading is computed as follows:

Book Test/Neher:	50 points
Midterm:	100 points
Final:	100 points
Attendance:	30 points
Document Analysis:	100 points
TOTAL POINTS:	380
Extra Credit:	possible 20 points

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1. August 23-25. Introducing Southeast Asia.

Aug. 23. Course Overview; Student Introductions.

Aug. 25. Introductory Lecture: Diversities and Commonalities.

Short Talk by Prof. Eric Jones: "Get Yourself to Southeast Asia"

Neher, *Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World*, (2004), 1-55.

Week 2. Aug. 30-Sept. 1. Geographical Diversities; Environmental Challenges.

Aug. 30. Lecture.

Sept. 1. Discussion. Book Test on Neher.

Neher, *Southeast Asia*, 56-96.

"The Gods Must Be Restless: Living in the Shadow of Indonesia's Volcanoes," by Andrew Marshall, *National Geographic*, January 2008, <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/01/volcano-culture/andrew-marshall-text>

"Southeast Asia's Climate Change Challenge," by Andrew Symon, May 26, 2007, *Online Asia Times*, http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast_Asia/IE26Ae01.html

"Deforestation of Southeast Asia: Urgent Action Needed," Singapore Institute of International Affairs, October 19, 2007, <http://www.siaonline.org/?q=programmes/insights/deforestation-southeast-asia>

Week 3. Sept. 6-8. Buddhist Cultures in Southeast Asia.

Sept. 6. Lecture.

Sept. 8. Guest Lecture: Professor Catherine Raymond, "Buddhist Art in Burmese Life and Culture" (tentative)

Juliane Schober, "Buddhism and Modernity in Myanmar," in *Buddhism in World Cultures*, ed. S. Berkwitz (2006), 73-100.

Week 4. Sept. 13-15. Islamic Cultures in Southeast Asia.

Sept. 13. Lecture.

Sept. 15. **Document Based Discussion 1: Sharia Law.**

Greg Fealy, "Islam in Southeast Asia," in *Southeast Asian History: Essential Readings*, ed. D. R. SarDesai (2006), 331-348.

Documents posted on Blackboard.

Week 5. Sept. 20-22. "Mottled Imperialisms": Varieties of Colonial Experience.

Sept. 20. Guest Lecture: Prof. Eric Jones, "Colonialism in Southeast Asia"

Sept. 22. Discussion: Comparing French Colonialism in Indochina and American Colonialism in the Philippines.

Milton Osborne, "The European Advance and Challenge," in *Southeast Asia: an Introductory History* (2010), 70-92.

Joshua Gedacht, "Mohammedan Religion Made It Necessary to Fire": Massacres on the American Imperial Frontier from South Dakota to the Southern Philippines," in *Colonial Crucible: Empire in the Making of the Modern American State*, ed. Alfred McCoy and Francisco Scarano (2009), 397-409.

James William Gibson, "Legacies of Resistance: Vietnamese Nationalism Against the Chinese and the French," in *The Perfect War* (1988), 28-43.

Week 6. Sept. 27-29. World War II, Japanese Occupation, and Revolutionary Nationalism.

Sept. 27. Lecture.

Sept. 29. Guest Lecture: Professor James Collins, "Merdeka!"

Alfred McCoy, ed., *Southeast Asia under Japanese Occupation* (1980), A. McCoy, "Introduction," 1-11; David Marr, "World War II and the Vietnamese Revolution," 125-51; A. J. S. Reid, "Indonesia: from Briefcase to Samurai Sword," 16-32.

Anthony Reid, "Understanding Southeast Asian Nationalisms," in *Imperial Alchemy: Nationalism and Political Identity in Southeast Asia* (2010), 1-48.

Week 7. Oct. 4-6. Independence and Decolonization/Midterm Exam

Oct. 4. Lecture.

Midterm Review.

Oct. 6. **MIDTERM EXAM.**

Robert McMahon, "The United States and Southeast Asia in an Era of Decolonization, 1945-1965," in Marc Frey et al, eds., *The*

Transformation of Southeast Asia: International Perspectives on Decolonization (2003), 213-225.

Week 8. Oct. 11-13. “The Other Cold War”: Southeast Asia in the Crossfire.

Oct. 11. Lecture.

Oct. 13. Discussion and Film (tba).

Richard Wright, *The Color Curtain: A Report on the Bandung Conference*, (1956), 175-196.

Michael Stenson, “The Ethnic and Urban Bases of the Communist Revolution in Malaysia,” in J. W. Lewis, ed., *Peasant Rebellion and Communist Revolution in Asia* (1974), 125-50.

George Herring, “A Dead-End Alley: the United States, France, and the First Indochina War, 1950-1954,” in *America’s Longest War* (2002), 3-51.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 14: LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM THE COURSE

Week 9. Oct. 18-20. Global Politics/Local Crises.

Oct. 18. Lecture.

Oct. 20. **Document Based Discussion 2: Vietnam’s “American War.”**

George Herring, “Enough, but Not Too Much,” and “On the Tiger’s Back,” in *America’s Longest War*, 131-223.

Documents posted on Blackboard

Week 10. Oct. 25-27. Genocide in Southeast Asia: Cambodia

Oct. 25. Lecture.

Film: “Enemies of the People”

Oct. 27. Guest Lecture: Professor Judy Ledgerwood, “Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge”

David Chandler, “Revolution in Cambodia, 1975-79,” “Inside the Typhoon” in *The Tragedy of Cambodian History*, 236-318.

Week 11. Nov. 1-3. Genocide in Southeast Asia: Indonesia

Nov. 1. Lecture.

Excerpts from Film, “40 Years of Silence”

Nov. 3. **Document Based Discussion 3: Indonesian Genocide, 1965-66.**

Geoffrey Robinson, “A Political Economy of Violence,” “The Massacre,” And “Myth and Reality in Bali,” in *The Dark Side of Paradise: Political Violence in Bali* (1995), 235-313.

Documents posted on Blackboard

Week 12. Nov. 8-10. Gender Issues in Contemporary Southeast Asia.

Nov. 8. Lecture.

Short Film: “Sex Trafficking in Cambodia”

Nov. 10. Guest Lecture: Professor Trudy Jacobsen, “Sex Trafficking in Southeast Asia” (tentative)

Trudy Jacobsen, *Lost Goddesses: the Denial of Female Power in Cambodian History* (2008), selections tba

Week 13. Nov. 15-17. Political Landscapes: Order, Democratization, and the Challenges of Statecraft.

Nov. 15. Lecture.

Nov. 17. Guest Lecturer: Professor Michael Buehler, "Political Order in Southeast Asia" (tentative)

S. Husin Ali, selections from *Two Faces: Detention without Trial* (1996), v-vi, 1-37, 151-165.

M. C. Rickles, "The Challenge, Crisis, and Collapse of the New Order, 1989-1998," "Reforming Indonesia, 1998-2004," and "Indonesia since 2004," in *A History of Modern Indonesia* (2008), 363-413.

Week 14. Nov. 22. Trade and Globalization: the case of ASEAN.

Nov. 22. Lecture.

Readings tba

Week 15. Nov. 29/Dec. 1. Youth Culture and New Media in Southeast Asia/Review

Nov. 29. Lecture and Music.

Dec. 1. Review and Course Evaluation

FINAL EXAM, Finals Week, to be scheduled

NIU STATEMENT ON "ACADEMIC INTEGRITY," NIU Undergraduate Catalog.

Good academic work must be based on honesty. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work that which he or she has not produced is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense. Students are considered to have cheated if they copy the work of another during an examination or turn in a paper or an assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else. Students are guilty of plagiarism, intentional or not, if they copy material from books, magazines, or other sources without identifying and acknowledging those sources or if they paraphrase ideas from such sources without acknowledging them. Students guilty of, or assisting others in, either cheating or plagiarism on an assignment, quiz, or examination may receive a grade of F for the course involved and may be suspended or dismissed from the university.

NIU abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding provision of reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students deserving such consideration must be registered with the Center for Access-Ability Resources (CARR, at 815.753.1303). Please contact me at the start of the semester to facilitate these accommodations.