

**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of History**  
**Fall 2009**

**HIST 126 -01 History of Southeast Asia I**

**Lec MW 4:15-5:30 p.m. Room: WGR 206**

**Course Instructor:** Dr. Pamela Sodhy. **Tel:** 202-687-6061 (History Dept. General Office No.)

**Office:** ICC 626 M 2:30 p.m -4:00 p.m. W 10:30 a.m – 12:00 noon and by appointment

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**Syllabus**

**Course Description:**

This course is the first part of a two-semester survey of Southeast Asian history from early times to the present. This first part will cover the early period of Southeast Asia until the end of World War Two. It will examine the major historical developments in the following eleven countries: Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste (East Timor), and Vietnam. The course will begin by discussing the geographical setting of Southeast Asia, its peoples, and the indigenous systems that existed. The course will then examine the influence exerted upon the region by its largest neighbors, India and China. Discussion of the Sinitization of Vietnam and the Indianization of most of Southeast Asia will include the political, economic, socio-cultural and religious impact of these two countries. With Sinitization came Confucianism while Indianization brought with it both Hinduism and Buddhism. Besides discussing the spread of these religions to Southeast Asia, the course will also trace the spread of Islam and Christianity to the region. Special attention will be given to the colonization of Southeast Asia by the Western powers. These powers included Portugal, Spain, Holland, Britain, France, and the United States and they were attracted to the area because of mainly economic and strategic reasons. They eventually carved out spheres of influence for themselves -- the Spanish, followed by the Americans, in the Philippines; the Portuguese in East Timor; the Dutch in Indonesia; the British in Burma and in what is now Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei; and the French in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Of the Southeast Asian nations, only Thailand did not succumb to colonialism. The course will examine why and how Thailand escaped the fate of its neighbors. As the course will also show, colonialism led to exploitation which, in turn, led to the rise of nationalist sentiments and to agitation for self-rule. The course will end by discussing the outbreak of World War Two in Southeast Asia in late 1941 and the Japanese Occupation which lasted until Japan's defeat by the Allied forces in 1945.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To help students gain a better understanding of the important geographical location of Southeast Asia, for example, as a cultural crossroads and as a region with strategic sea-lanes.

2. To show that the Southeast Asian countries have long attracted the attention of India and China and of the Western powers. The Western interest has been based on mainly economic and strategic reasons as raw materials and bases were needed.
3. To understand the major developments in each of the eleven countries of Southeast Asia, their most important leaders, and the main themes in their histories.
4. With this basic knowledge of the histories of these Southeast Asian nations, to better appreciate their sensitivities, problems, strengths, and weaknesses, as there are links between their past and present.
5. To also better understand the main similarities and differences between the countries of Southeast Asia for there are bonds that tie them together as well as forces that pull them apart. In this connection, the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have shown their ability to transcend some differences for the common good.
6. To recognize that Southeast Asia is still important for economic and strategic reasons. ASEAN has become the third largest trading partner of the United States which now trades more with the Pacific nations than with the Atlantic nations. Since September 11, 2001, Southeast Asia has also been called the “second front” in the fight against terrorism.

**Required Texts:**

D.R. SarDesai, *Southeast Asia: Past and Present* (Boulder: Westview Press, 2003), 5th ed.

Anthony Reid, *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce, 1450 - 1680. Vol. I: The Lands Below the Winds* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1988).

G. Coedes, *The Indianized States of Southeast Asia* (Honolulu: University Press of Hawaii, 1971).

Barbara Watson Andaya & Leonard Y. Andaya, *A History of Malaysia*, (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2001), 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

Norman G. Owen (ed.), *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia: A New History* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2005).

David K. Wyatt, *Thailand: A Short History* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003). 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

M.C. Ricklefs, *A History of Modern Indonesia Since c. 1200*, (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2008), 4<sup>th</sup> ed.

**Optional Texts** (on reserve at Lauinger Library)

D.G.E. Hall, *A History of Southeast Asia* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1981), 4th ed.

Stanley Karnow, *In Our Image: America's Empire in the Philippines* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1989).

**Grading:**

Class participation:	10%
Mid-Term Exam:	30%
Research Paper:	30%
Final Exam:	30%

**Method:**

The course will consist of lectures, discussions, and some films. Under a chronological framework, the lectures will deal with the major topics and themes in the history of Southeast Asia prior to 1945. The main themes include: indigenous traditions, Sinification, Indianization, the spread of Islam, Western colonialism, Thailand's independence, nationalism, and the Japanese Occupation of Southeast Asia. Each student is required to write a research paper on an aspect of Southeast Asian history to be chosen in consultation with the course instructor. The research paper should be on a topic dealing with the pre-1945 period in Southeast Asia. Students are required to attend all the classes and are expected to prepare for each meeting by doing the assigned readings.

**Research Paper:**

The paper should be about 10 pages in length (double-spaced) and should contain footnotes and a bibliography. Both primary and secondary sources should be used for the research paper. Some of the primary sources are available in translation. These primary source materials might include indigenous chronicles or codes of law, contemporary newspapers, published and microfilmed government documents and reports, travelers' accounts, and novels, poems, and short stories. Students should meet with the course instructor to settle on a topic by Wednesday, September 23, 2009. A brief paper proposal of a few paragraphs in length, together with a preliminary bibliography, should be submitted to the course instructor by Monday, October 5, 2009. The proposal should include the paper title and should state the aim, scope, and organization of the paper while the preliminary bibliography should list, in two separate sections, the primary and secondary sources to be used. The deadline for submission of the research paper is Monday, November 23, 2009. The paper will be graded on content, organization, style, analysis, and use of sources.

## Important Dates:

Monday, October 5, 2009 -- Submission of paper proposal  
Wednesday, October 14, 2009 -- Mid-Term Exam  
Monday, November 23, 2009 -- Deadline for submission of Research Papers  
Friday, Dec. 18, 2009, 4:00pm -6:00pm -- Final Exam

## CLASS MEETINGS

1<sup>st</sup> Week (Sept. 2): Course Introduction and Overview  
The Major Geographical Features and Peoples of Southeast Asia  
The Indigenous Traditions: Physical Well-Being and Material Culture

Readings: Owen (ed.), *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia*,  
“Introduction: Places and Peoples”

Lea A. Williams, *Southeast Asia: A History* (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1976), Chpt 1, “The Setting” (available online under instructor’s name).

SarDesai, *Southeast Asia: Past & Present*, Chpt. 1, pp. 1-14.

Reid, *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce, 1450-1680 Vol. 1: The Lands below the Winds*, Chpts. 1-3.

Optional: Hall, *A History of Southeast Asia*, Chpts. 1 & 12.

2<sup>nd</sup> Week (Sept. 9): The Indigenous Traditions of Southeast Asia: Social Organizations,  
Festivals, and Amusements.  
The Sinification (or Sinicization) of Vietnam (from 111B.C. to 939  
A.D. & from 1407 to 1428).

Readings: Reid, *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce, 1450-1680 Vol. 1: The Lands below the Winds*, Chpts. 4-5.

Williams, *Southeast Asia: A History*, Chpt. 2, “Cultural Crossroads”, pp. 35-43 (available online under instructor’s name).

SarDesai, *Southeast Asia: Past & Present*, Chpt. 1, pp.14-20.  
Chpt. 2, pp. 36- 42.

3<sup>rd</sup> Week (Sept. 14, 16): General Overview of the Indianization of Southeast Asia.

Film on Indonesia to show Indigenous Traditions & Indianization.  
The Indianization of Southeast Asia, Part I: The Earliest Indianized States on Mainland Southeast Asia -- Funan, Chenla, and Champa.

Readings: Williams, *Southeast Asia: A History*, Chpt. 2, pp. 24-35  
(available online under instructor's name).

Coedes, *The Indianized States of Southeast Asia*, Chpts. 2-5.

SarDesai, *Southeast Asia: Past & Present*, Chpt. 2, pp. 22-28.

Optional: Hall, *A History of Southeast Asia*, Chpt. 2.

4<sup>th</sup> Week (Sept. 21, 23): The Indianization of Southeast Asia, Part II: Early Indianized States in Insular Southeast Asia -- on Sumatra (the Srivijaya Empire) and on Java (the Sailendra, Mataram, Kediri, Singhasari, and Majapahit Empires).

Readings: SarDesai, *Southeast Asia: Past & Present*, Chpt. 3, Chpt. 4 pp. 56-58.

Coedes, *The Indianized States of Southeast Asia*. See the relevant sections in Chpts. 6 – 13.

Optional: Hall, *A History of Southeast Asia*, Chpts. 3-4.

5<sup>th</sup> Week (Sept. 28, 30): The Indianization of Southeast Asia, Part III: Indianized States on Mainland Southeast Asia -- in Cambodia during the Angkor Period; in Burma during the Pre-Pagan and Pagan Periods; and in Siam (Thailand) during the Mon and Tai Periods.  
Slides on Southeast Asia & short film on Angkor Wat.

Readings: Coedes, *The Indianized States of Southeast Asia*. See relevant sections of Chpts. 7- 11 for Cambodia and Burma and relevant sections of Chpts. 12-13 for Siam (Thailand).

SarDesai, *Southeast Asia: Past & Present*, Chpt. 2, pp. 28-35.

Optional: Hall, *A History of Southeast Asia*, Chpts. 5-7.

6<sup>th</sup> Week (Oct. 5, 7): Submission of Research Paper Proposal on Oct. 5.  
The Spread of Islam to Southeast Asia and Film on Islam

The Malacca Sultanate & the Early History of Malaya until 1700.  
Review Session before Mid-Term Exam

Readings: Williams, *Southeast Asia: A History*, Chpt. 2, pp. 43-51  
(available online under instructor's name).

Ricklefs, *A History of Modern Indonesia*, Chpt. 1.

Coedes, *The Indianized States of Southeast Asia*, Chpt. 13, pp. 230- 232; Chpt. 14, pp. 245-246.

SarDesai, *Southeast Asia: Past & Present*, Chpt. 4, pp. 58-62; Chpt. 5, pp. 63-66.

Andaya & Andaya, *A History of Malaysia*, Chpts 1-2.

**7<sup>th</sup> Week: Monday, Oct. 12, 2009: Mid-Semester Holiday -- No Class.**  
**Wed., Oct. 14, 2009: Mid-Term Exam.**

8<sup>th</sup> Week (Oct. 19, 21): Siam (Thailand) during the Ayuthia Dynasty  
Major Developments in Laos until French Rule in 1893

Readings: SarDesai, *Southeast Asia: Past & Present*, Chpt. 4, pp. 51-56.

Wyatt, *Thailand: A Short History*, Chpt. 5.

Hall, *A History of Southeast Asia*, Chpt. 26, "The Kingdom of Laos, 1591-1836" (available online under instructor's name).

9<sup>th</sup> Week (Oct. 26, 28): Early Western Colonialism in Southeast Asia: By Portugal, Spain, Holland, England, and France.  
Spanish Rule in the Philippines

Readings: SarDesai, *Southeast Asia: Past & Present*, Chpt. 5

Williams, *Southeast Asia: A History*, Chpt. 3, "The First Wave of Imperialism: The Iberian Vanguard" & Chpt. 4, "The Second Wave of Imperialism: The Company Formula" (available online under instructor's name).

Owen (ed.), *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia*, Chpt. 11, "The Spanish Philippines" . .

Optional: Karnow, *In Our Image: America's Empire in the Philippines*  
Chpts. 2-3 (available online under instructor's name).

10<sup>th</sup> Wk (Nov. 2, 4): Vietnam after Chinese Rule and before French Rule  
French Colonialism in Vietnam until 1941  
Film on French Indochina

Readings: SarDesai, *Southeast Asia: Past & Present*, Chpt. 6, pp. 78-81  
Chpt. 10; & Chpt. 17, pp. 187-192.

Owen, (ed.), *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia*,  
Chpt. 7, "Vietnam, 1700-1885"; Chpt. 23, "Vietnam, 1885-  
1975", pp. 335-344.

11<sup>th</sup> Week (Nov. 9, 11): Cambodia in the Post-Angkor Period until French Rule in 1863  
French Colonialism in Cambodia and Laos until 1941  
The Special Case of Thailand

Readings: Owen, (ed.), *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia*,  
Chpt. 8, "Cambodia, 1796-1884"; Chpt. 25, "Cambodia,  
1884-1975", pp. 361-365; Chpt. 26, "Laos to 1975", pp.  
371-373; Chpt. 6, "Siam: From Ayuthia to Bangkok"; and  
Chpt 24, "Siam becomes Thailand, 1910-1973", pp. 350-  
355.

SarDesai, *Southeast Asia: Past and Present*, Chpt. 6, pp.  
77-78; Chpts. 11 & 16.

Wyatt, *Thailand: A Short History*, Chpts. 6-8, Chpt. 9,  
pp. 232-245.

12<sup>th</sup> Wk (Nov. 16, 18): Dutch Rule in Indonesia until 1941  
Film on Dutch Rule in Indonesia and Discussion of Film.

Readings: Owen, (ed.), *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia*, Chpt.  
9, "Realignments: The Making of the Netherlands East Indies,  
1750-1914"; Chpt. 20, "Becoming Indonesia, 1900-1959", pp.  
296-306.

Ricklefs, *A History of Modern Indonesia*, Chpts. 3-4.

13<sup>th</sup> Week (Nov. 23): British Rule in the Malayan area and in North Borneo until 1941  
Submission of Research Paper

Readings: Owen, (ed.), *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia*, Chpt. 10, "The Malay *Negeri* of the Peninsula and Borneo, 1775-1900"; Chpt. 21, "British Malaya".

Andaya & Andaya, *A History of Malaysia*, Chpts. 3-6.

14<sup>th</sup> Wk (Nov. 30, Dec. 2): Major Developments in Burmese History until British Rule  
British Colonialism in Burma until 1941  
Film on American Colonialism in the Philippines until WWII

Readings: SarDesai, *Southeast Asia: Past and Present*, Chpt. 6, pp. 74- 77, & Chpt. 9.

Owen, (ed.), *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia*, Chpt. 5, "Myanmar Becomes British Burma"; Chpt. 22, "British Burma and Beyond", pp. 322-331.

15<sup>th</sup> Wk (Dec. 7, 9): American Colonialism in the Philippines  
The Japanese Occupation of Southeast Asia.  
Review Session for Final Exam

Readings: SarDesai, *Southeast Asia: Past and Present*, Chpt. 13.

Owen, (ed.), *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia*, Chpt. Chpt. 19, "The Philippines, 1986-1972: From Revolution to Martial Law", pp. 283-291.

Williams, *Southeast Asia: A History*, Chpt. 10, "Japanese Interregnum" (available online under instructor's name).

Benedict Anderson, "Japan: The Light of Asia", in Joseph Silverstein (ed.), *Southeast Asia in World War II* (New Haven: Yale University, Southeast Asia Studies, Monograph Series, No. 7, 1966), pp. 13-50 (available online under instructor's name).

Optional: Karnow, *In Our Image: America's Empire in the Philippines*, Chpts. 4- 10.

**Fri., Dec. 18, 2009, 4:00 pm-6:00pm : FINAL EXAM on topics since mid-term exam.**

