

ANT 324L (31340)
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Spring, 2011
T Th 11 – 12:30
JES A218.A

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Office hours: W 2:30 to 4:30 &
By appointment

Cultures of Southeast Asia (Writing Component)

Course objective and content: The course aims to provide a general introduction to important themes in the anthropological literature on Southeast Asia. Principal among the themes that we will consider are the following: conflicting attitudes toward hierarchical and egalitarian social relations; varying understandings of gender roles; and diverse forms of governance. The aim is to increase students' understanding of the nature of Southeast Asian societies, and by doing so, to increase students' understandings of their own attitudes and practices.

Readings are taken from several different genres: an anthropological memoir, two novels (one translated from Thai, the other from Indonesian), a history text, a family memoir, and a biography. The point of this eclecticism is to note how information about social relations can be gathered from many different kinds of sources

Students should note at the outset that the reading assignments are many and lengthy. They are, in my opinion, extremely compelling, and none of them requires the sort of concentration that highly theoretical writing in the social sciences often calls for. Nevertheless, this course does demand a considerable commitment to reading on the part of students. If you are taking other courses that require large amounts of reading, you should ask yourself whether this is the right time to take this course.

We will also devote considerable class time to discussing writing. Few students find this enjoyable, and if you have no interest in improving your writing skills, you might want to look for a class in which the professor takes this responsibility less seriously.

Here follows the Writing Flag description provided by the Center for the Core Curriculum:

“This course carries the Writing Flag. Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, complete substantial writing projects, and receive feedback from your instructor to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to revise one or more assignments, and to read and discuss your peers' work. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your written work.”

Course requirements: Students are required to do all of the reading, as well as attend class. Grades will be based on three essays of about four pages (each worth 25 points), six short assignments of about one page (each worth 3 points), and one précis of a published article (worth 7 points). (Seven short assignments are listed in the syllabus. A student can drop one of these without penalty. If a student opts to submit seven short responses, the lowest grade will be dropped.) There is no extra credit option for this course.

Class policy: Students are expected to reach class on time and to remain till the end of class. Behavior that distracts other students or me will not be permitted. Laptop computers and other electronic devices may not be used during class. Attendance is strongly encouraged on Tuesdays. Since writing assignments consist of applying material I have presented in class to the readings,

missing a lecture can have serious consequences: you may find yourself unfamiliar with theoretical material covered only in lecture that you must draw upon in order to write one of the three essays. Attendance is **mandatory** on Thursdays. Attendance will be taken: two points out of the semester total of 100 will be taken off for every Thursday absence.

Grading policy: You will need to submit assignments in **two** forms: using Blackboard, you must submit a copy online; and you must **also** submit a hard copy in class (and remain to attend a class, as well). Please make sure you are familiar with the “Assignment” function on Blackboard so that you will have no problem getting your assignment submitted on line. Assignments turned in late lose a full grade a day. Extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration *provided* I receive verifiable documentation from a third party (e.g., medical personnel in the case of illness, relatives in the case of a family emergency). Otherwise, the penalty stands.

If you are dissatisfied by a grade you receive on any assignment, you are free to have me review the grade. However, I cannot guarantee that I will change your grade.

Blackboard: It is important that I be able to communicate with students by email. I can do this most efficiently by making use of Blackboard; Blackboard uses a student’s UT-assigned email address as a default setting. If you do not regularly check emails on your UT-assigned email address, you should be sure to register the email address you do use with UT.

Students with disabilities: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic adjustments for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY. Please make known to me any special needs you might have so that reasonable accommodation can be made.

Readings:

The following readings are available for overnight loan in PCL Reserves. The books are also for sale (some in used copies) at the Coop Bookstore.

Durga/Umayi : a novel. Manguwijaya, Y. B., tr. Ward Keeler. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2004.
PL 5089 M345 D8713 2004 PCL Reserves

Four reigns./ Kukrit Pramoj, M.R. tr. Tulachandra. Chang Mai, Thailand: Silkworm Books, 1998[1953].
PL 4209 K8 S513 1998 PCL Reserves

The journey of one Buddhist nun: even against the wind. Brown, Sid. Albany: SUNY Press, 2001.
BQ 6150 B76 2001 PCL Reserves

Mad dogs, Englishmen, and the errant anthropologist: fieldwork in Malaysia. Raybeck, Douglas. Prospect Heights, Il.: Waveland, 1996.
GN 635 M4 R39 1996 PCL Reserves

The sacred willow : four generations in the life of a Vietnamese family. Elliott, Duong Van Mai. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
DS 556.8 E44 1999 PCL Reserves

The following title is no longer available for sale (although you might be able to find a copy at Amazon.com). The portions of the text we will be reading will be available on line.

Village at War: an account of conflict in Vietnam. Trullinger, James. Stanford, Ca.: Stanford University Press, 1993 [1975].

DS 559.9 T48 T78 1994 PCL Reserves

Reading and assignment schedule:

Week 1. January 17 - 21 Introduction

Reading: Raybeck, pp. 1 – 113.

Blackboard: The prompt for the first short assignment, due by 10 p.m., Wednesday, January 26, will be available on the Blackboard site for this course, after class on Thursday, January 20. Check the “Assignments” folder to find the prompt. Send me an email (see above) if you cannot get access to this assignment. Please note that you are also required to bring a **hard copy** of your assignment to class on Thursday, January 27. This hard copy should **not** show your name, because it is important that I be able to grade your assignments anonymously.

This same pattern—submitting your assignments electronically and then bringing a hard copy to class—will apply to all assignments in the course of the semester except the final essay.

In order to make sure that you will not encounter any problems submitting assignments through Blackboard, please go as soon as possible to the Blackboard site for the course and follow the instructions for the assignment called Test run.

Week 2. January 24 -- 28 Lowland rural life

Reading: Raybeck, pp. 115 – 238.

Blackboard: Second short writing assignment, due by 10 p.m., Wednesday, February 2.

Week 3. January 31 – February 4 Lowland rural life

Reading: Khukrit Pramoj, pp. 3 - 350

Note: the novel, *Four Reigns*, contains a total of 656 short, entertaining pages. You can divide your reading up as you like, but you will be expected to have completed the novel when you write your first essay.

Week 4. February 7 –11 Urban aristocratic life

Reading: Khukrit Pramoj, pp. 350-656

Blackboard: First essay assignment available after class on Thursday, February 10, due by 10 p.m., Wednesday, February 16.

Week 5. February 14 – 18 Urban aristocratic life

No additional reading.

Blackboard: revise your first draft of your essay, and resubmit by **10 p.m., Wednesday, February 23.**

Note that if you have done an adequate job on your first draft, you should be able to polish your essay and still have time to start reading Elliott's book—a good idea, given the length of Elliott's book.

Week 6. February 21 – 25 Vietnam

Reading: Elliott, pp. 3 - 187

Week 7. February 28 – March 4 Vietnam

Reading: Elliott, pp. 189 – 336.

Blackboard: Third short writing assignment, due by 10 p.m., Wednesday, March 9.

Week 8. March 7 – 11

Reading: Elliott, pp. 337 - 371
Trullinger, pp. 96 - 206.

Spring Break March 14 – 18

Week 9. March 21 – 25 Vietnam

Reading: Elliott, pp. 373 – 474

Blackboard: Fourth short writing assignment, due by 10 p.m., Wednesday, March 30.

Blackboard: Second essay assignment available after class on Thursday, March 31, due by 10 p.m. Wednesday, April 6.

(You have the option of submitting a draft of your second essay on Blackboard by 10 p.m., Wednesday, April 2. You will receive comments on a draft only if you submit it to me by that date.)

Week 10. March 28 – April 1 Vietnam

No additional reading.

Week 11. April 4 – 8 Buddhism

Reading: Brown pp. 6 – 142.

Blackboard: Fifth short reading assignment, due by 10 p.m., Wednesday, April 13.

Week 12. April 11 - 15 Gender

Reading: Mangunwijaya pp. 1 - 82.

Blackboard: Sixth short reading assignment, due by 10 p.m., Wednesday, April 20.

Week 13. April 18 – 22 Modernization

Reading Mangunwijaya pp. 83-169.

Blackboard: Seventh short reading assignment, due by 10 p.m., Wednesday, April 27.

Blackboard: Submit **the name and source** of an academic essay to be summarized in a précis by 10 p.m., Friday, April 29. (See below for due date for the précis itself.)

Week 14. April 25 – 29 Modernization

No additional reading.

Blackboard: Submit précis by 10 p.m., Wednesday, May 4.

Week 15. May 2 – 6 Conclusion

No additional reading.

Blackboard: Final essay topic available after class on Thursday, May 5. To be submitted on Blackboard by 2 p.m., Thursday, May 12. I recommend that you also submit a hard copy to my mail box in the Department of Anthropology front office, in case there is any problem with your Blackboard submission.