

# **GEOG 3890 Monsoon Asia**

## **Fall 2009**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION: 3 Units of Credit**

The main objective of this course is to help students to understand global interdependence and the emergence of Southeast Asia nations. Southeast Asia is one of the most diverse areas of Asia. The countries of Southeast Asia include Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia (all primarily Theravada Buddhist countries); Vietnam and Singapore (mixed Taoist-Buddhist countries); Brunei, Malaysia, and Indonesia (all primarily Islamic countries); the Philippines and East Timor (primarily Roman Catholic). The course will explore physical and cultural landscapes in this region and nature-society interrelationships as well as processes of development in the context of globalization and regionalism. The social construction of landscapes and quality of life issues will be stressed. This course will be taught from an interdisciplinary perspective, which introduces students to the region through the lens of social sciences, humanities, and the arts. The course will involve classroom instruction, discussions of assigned readings, individual assignments and group projects. The class will typically follow a lecture format with a brief group presentation at the end of each session. Audio-visual materials will be used to supplement the lectures. Guest speakers may also be invited for some sessions.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

This course is designed to:

1. Increase knowledge of the different countries of Southeast Asia, including their geographical features, political systems and religious traditions.
2. Provide a broad overview of the history and cultural diversity of this region of Asia, thereby increasing knowledge about the accomplishments and contributions of non-western civilizations.
3. Enhance understanding of how art, architecture, literature, and sculpture reflect basic religious and cultural themes throughout the region.

### **REQUIRED TEXT:**

LIM Chong Yah, 2004. *Southeast Asia: The Long Road Ahead*. World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd.

Note: Additional readings will be provided in class or through emails.

### **RECOMMEND TEXT:**

Leinbach, Thomas and Ulack, Richard 2000. *Southeast Asia: Diversity and Development*. Prentice Hall.

### **EVALUATION:**

Class Attendance/Exercises:	20%
Short Papers:	
#1	10%
#2	10%
Exams:	
#1	20%
#2	20%
Final Project:	
Paper	10%
Presentation	10%

Total:

100%

All grades will be assigned using the following scale:

A	92.5 – 100	C	72.5 – 78
BA	88 – 92.5	DC	68 – 72.5
B	82.5 – 88	D	60 – 68
CB	78 – 82.5	E	<60

**Map Web Sites:** Check out [www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/docs/refmaps.html](http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/docs/refmaps.html); [www.nationalgeographic.com/maps/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/maps/); [www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/asia.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/asia.html) or <http://geography.about.com/library/maps/blindex.htm> for a general map of each country and some current facts.

## **ASSIGNMENTS:**

### **(1). Class Attendance/Exercises (20%)**

In-class exercises will be announced and conducted on a random basis over the course of the semester. Ten class exercises will be recorded and each is worth 2 points.

### **(2). Short paper I: Country Report (10%)**

Select one of the countries of Southeast Asia (excluding Brunei or East Timor) and identify what you believe to be the three major issues facing that country in the early 21st century. You should of course carefully cite the references that you used as a basis for your paper. Your final paper should be about 2-3 pages in length, double-spaced typewritten (12 point font, word-processed). There should be a separate final page including the list of references you used. The assignment is due at the beginning of class on Sep. 29. **Proofread carefully** (you will be marked down for spelling, grammatical errors, etc.)

### **(3). Short paper II: Media Analysis Report (10%)**

How is globalization changing Southeast Asian countries? The internet provides instant access to Asian newspapers so that you can compare Asian and North American views of current events. Compare one Asian and one North American newspaper article on the same topic in an international news report. Prepare a two or three-page report (typed and double spaced in 12 point type and free from spelling and grammatical errors). It is due at the beginning of class on Nov. 3. **Proofread carefully** (you will be marked down for spelling, grammatical errors, etc.)

### **(4). Research project: paper (10%) and presentation (10%)**

The project will consist of a 20-minute presentation plus a paper. Two or three-student teams must be developed for the project (maximum three members in a team). The project topic is a comparative study of the U.S. and a Southeast Asian country or countries on a particular topic of your choice, such as population, economy, politics, urbanization, environmental problems, health, ethnicity, tourism or gender issues. The presentation will be arranged at the end of the semester when the paper is also due. The text of the paper should be four pages (**maximum 2000 words, typewritten, double-space, 12 point font and free from spelling and grammatical errors**) with a map and a bibliography attached. Paper must be presented in an academic essay format. The presentation should be based on the paper, with power point slides, graphs or tables to present details and/or illustrate what is found. A ppt file should be provided to the instructor for evaluation before or after the class.

### (5). Exams: (40%)

There are two compulsory exams in this course. Students are required to be present to write the examination. Exams will be in the form of true/false, multiple-choice, and short answer questions. Exam questions will be drawn from text, lectures, videos, additional readings and handouts. Students are expected to take the examinations at the scheduled date and time. There will be **NO make-up examinations**.

### Tentative Course Schedule

This outline provides a general guide to the major topics which will be covering in this course and required readings. If additional time is needed to cover certain topics, adjustments will be made to the schedule.

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments
1	Sep. 8, 10	Course introduction; Monsoon Asia	Chapter 1	
2	Sep. 15, 17	Physical Geography	Chapter 1	
3	Sep. 22, 24	Human and Cultural Geography	Chapter 11	
4	Sep. 29 Oct. 1	Colonialism and Nationalism	Supplemental	Short paper #1 due on Sep. 29 Selection of project topics due on Oct. 1
5	Oct. 6, 8	Agriculture	Chapter 3-5	
6	Oct. 13, 15	Economic diversity	Chapter 2	Exam #1 on Oct. 13
7	Oct. 20, 22	Industrialisation	Chapter 6	
8	Oct. 27, 29	Urbanization	Chapter 11	
9	Nov. 3, 5	Tourism Development	Supplemental	Short paper #2 due on Nov. 3
10	Nov. 10, 12	Special topics <b>Asian food/Cuisine</b>		
11	Nov. 17, 19	Course review & wrap up		Exam #2 on Nov. 19
12	Nov. 24	Project presentation		
13	Dec. 1, 3	Project presentation		
14	Dec. 8, 10	Project presentation		

### Requirements, Grade Penalties and Special Considerations:

- ✓ **Class attendance is mandatory and expected of all students.** Maximum two absences may be excused. Penalties will be applied to more than two absences and two points will be docked from the overall grade per absence. **Students are responsible for making up class exercises missed due to excused absence from class.** Each student is expected to actively contribute to the class discussion both as called on by the instructor and on a voluntary basis.
- ✓ **Missed exams:** no student will be excused from taking an exam unless they have prior permission from the instructor or a written medical excuse.

- ✓ Readability and Clarity: Students are expected to present well-organized and properly written work. Penalties of up to 25% may be applied in cases where readability and/or clarity are inadequate. Correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar are essential.
- ✓ Format for written assignments: double-spaced; Times New Roman font size 12; 1" margins on all four sides of the page; pages named, numbered and stapled.
- ✓ Computer Use: Assignments must be completed using a computer. Assignments may not be accepted if a computer is not used.
- ✓ Late assignments: Assignments are due during the class period on the assigned date unless otherwise noted. Assignments must be turned in on time. Failure to do so without a legitimate excuse will result in loss of 10% of the total score per day late (including weekends). A student's assignment more than 7 days late will not be accepted and a grade of zero will be recorded for that assignment. These penalties may only be avoided with prior permission from the instructor or a written medical excuse. Technical or other creative excuses will not be accepted. Assignments are due at the beginning of class (meaning - don't cut class to finish assignments). Assignments will be graded and returned within 2 weeks of their due date.
- ✓ Policy on Plagiarism: **Detection of any form of cheating or plagiarism on any exam or assignment in this course will result in an automatic score of zero.** To avoid problems of plagiarism in written assignments, be sure to reference all materials referred to in the proper manner. This includes (1) Placing all direct quotes (word-for-word copying of several words, sentences or entire paragraphs) in quotation marks followed by a reference in brackets acknowledging author, year, and page number, e.g., (Nicholls, 2003, p. 1). (2) Acknowledging the author and year (Nicholls, 2003) of any materials you paraphrase or take major ideas from.
- ✓ Avoidance of Academic Offense: You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate (pp. 274-276) [Graduate (pp. 25-27)] Catalog that pertains to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with me if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.
- ✓ Disabilities: Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact Ms. Beth Denhartigh at 387-2116 or email beth.denhartigh@wmich.edu at the beginning of the semester. A disability determination must be made by that office before any accommodations are provided by the instructor.

### **Library Assistance:**

For assistance in locating articles, books and additional reference materials relevant to this class contact Michael McDonnell, Library Liaison to the Geography Department.  
Phone: (387)5208, Michael.McDonnell@wmich.edu, Room 2030, Second Floor, Waldo Library.

### **Referencing/Citation:**

This course requires students to use a single standard referencing system for all papers and assignments. The format is the APA (American Psychological Association) style. The complete style outline can be found in the **Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association**.

A brief summary of the citation style can also be found in Section VII of The Ready Reference Handbook. On the web you can find some other quick references at the following URLs.

APA Essentials - <http://www.vanguard.edu/psychology/apa.html>

Format - <http://www.english.uiuc.edu/cws/wworkshop/bibliography/apa/apamenu.htm>

APA Crib Sheet - <http://www.wooster.edu/psychology/apa-crib.html>

Citing Electronic References - <http://www.apa.org/journals/webref.html#Email>

Frequently asked Questions - <http://www.apa.org/journals/faq.html>