Except Vietnam, the countries in the mainland Southeast Asia (Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand) are distinctive not only to the region but also to the world since, including Sri Lanka, they are the homeland of Theravada Buddhism. Over 120 million people today practice and live under the influence of Theravada Buddhism. Despite Westernization and the secularization in the past 150 years, the influence of religious tradition in those countries is very strong.

It is not the aim of this course, however, to study Theravada's tenets and philosophy in depth. As a history course, the theme will be the role of religion in the polities and cultures of those countries in history: the ideas and influence of Theravada Buddhism in shaping political and social institutions; the role of the monastic order in relation to the state and peasant, and the effects on the religion as the countries have gone through colonialism and modernization since the mid-nineteenth century. The focus on Thailand and Burma is not arbitrary, since they are major force of the region's history and religious development, and they provide us with adequate examples to understand the entire region.

As an introduction to the culture with which students may not be familiar, the course will explore major topics instead of a chronology. No previous knowledge is required; nor is the ability to memorize all the dates and unfamiliar terms and names. What is required is attention and patience, plus imagination, to learn about the unfamiliar culture.

Class: Three 50-min. lectures weekly.
Office Hours: 5211 Humanities ph. 263-8931
Monday 11:00-12:30 and 2:00-3:00 and by appointment
Grading: 1. One mid-term take-home exam. The question will be given at the end of Week 4 or 5 and due a week later. (20%)
2. For four credit: One research paper about 10-12 pages, not including notes and references at the end. Due Mon, Nov 21. (40%)
   For three credit: a short essay (4-5 pages). The instruction will be given in Week 8. Due Mon, Nov 21. (40%)
   [All written works must be typed, double spacing.]
3. Final exam (see the Time-table) 40%

What is expected is NOT the ability to excerpt, or paraphrase the lecture or reading materials, but one's understanding of the subjects in her/his own words (particularly in writing), and the basic research skills such as library search for relevant materials. Originality, creativity and imagination will be bonus.

Required Textbooks:
The Coursepacket for History 438-Fall 1994 (available at the Humanities Copy Center, Rm. 1650 Humanities)
Recommended books:
Ishii, Yoneo. Sangha, State and Society: Thai Buddhism in History
Tambiah, Stanley J. World Conqueror and World Renouncer

All the texts and recommended books, including the coursepacket, are also available in the Reserves Collection (in the College Library). The previous coursepackets of this course remain in the Reserves, although the materials are not entirely the same. (See History 459 for Spring 1993 and History 438 for Spring 1994.)

Note on the Readings:
The required readings are in either Spiro, 1982 or in the coursepacket. The number at the end of each item is page numbers. The supplemental readings are recommended for anyone interested in particular topics.

SCHEDULE

ORIENTATION Sept 2
Introduce the course: aims and objectives of the course, business, assignments, expectation.

WEEK 1 (Sept 5,7,9)
Introduce Southeast Asia and its history in brief
Assignment: To be announced in class

WEEK 2 (Sept 12,14,16) Two major "orders" of Buddhism
Theravada Buddhism to Southeast Asia Asia
Reading: * Conze, Edward. A Short History of Buddhism. 9-47.

IDEAS
WEEK 3 (Sept 19,21,23) The Four Noble Truth, Nirvana, Karma, merit
Reading: * Spiro. Buddhism and Society. chap. 2,4,5 (31-65, 92-139)

WEEK 4 (Sept 26,28,30) Buddhism and popular belief
* Spiro. Buddhism and Society. chap. 6,7 (140-87)
* Terwiel, B.J. Monks and Magic. 72-96

WEEK 5 (Oct 3,5,7) (To be announced)
Reading: "Spirits of the Yellow Leaves" (in the coursepacket)
WEEK 6 (Sept 10, 12, 14) Cosmology and social order
Reading: * Reynolds, Frank E. Three Worlds According to King Ruang: A Thai Buddhist Cosmology. introduction pp. 5-37. The entire book is a translation of a thirteenth century Thai cosmographical text.
* Heine-Geldern, Robert. Conceptions of State and Kingship in Southeast Asia

THE SANGHA (MONASTIC ORDER)

WEEK 7 (Oct 17, 19, 21) The sangha
* Tambiah, S.J. The Buddhist Saints of the Forest and the Cult of Amulets. chap. 5 (53-77).

BUDDHIST POLITY

WEEK 8 (Oct 24, 26, 28) Merit and power, kingship, and state
* Tambiah, S.J. World Conqueror and World Renouncer. 111-131
* Wyatt, David K. "The Subtle Revolution of King Rama I of Siam," in Moral Order and the Question of Change. 9-52

WEEK 9 (Oct 31, Nov 2, 4) Religious legitimation of power and rebellions
* Spiro. Buddhism and Society. 171-180

TRANSITION

WEEK 10 (Nov 7, 9, 11) Buddhism and colonialism in Burma
Buddhism, socialism and nation-building in Burma
Reading: * Sarkisyanz, E. Buddhist Backgrounds of the Burmese Revolution. 110-179
WEEK 11 (Nov 14, 16, 18) Modern Buddhism in Siam
The sangha and nation-building in Siam

* Excerpts from Alabaster, Henry. The Modern Buddhist, Being the Views of a Siamese Minister of State on His Own and Other Religions. (See in the coursepacket.)

BUDDHISM AND MODERN NATIONS

WEEK 12 (Nov 21, 23) Buddhism, women, and the prostitution issue


WEEK 13 (Nov 28, 30, Dec 2) Buddhism, the bourgeoisie, and forest


WEEK 14 (Dec 5, 7, 9) Buddhism and Politics in Burma Today


WEEK 15 (Dec 12, 14) Final remarks
SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS
(for weekly reading, research and FYI)

Week 1 & 2  Introduction to Southeast Asia and early history of Buddhism to Southeast Asia
- Coedes, George. *The Making of Southeast Asia*. 10-87
- Than Tun. *Essays on the History and Buddhism of Burma*. 3-58

Week 3 Nirvana, Karma and merit
- Conze, Edward. *Buddhism*. 11-48

Week 4 Popular Belief
- Spiro. *Burmese Supernaturalism*.

Week 6 Cosmology
- Sarkisyanz, E. *Buddhist Background of the Burmese Revolution*. chap.11,13 (68-74, 82-86)

Week 7 Sangha
- Ishii. *Sangha, State and Society*. chap 1 (3-33)
- Reynolds, Craig J. *The Buddhist Monkhood in the Nineteenth Century Thailand*. chap 2
- Lester, Robert. *Theravada Buddhism in Southeast Asia* chap 5-7 (83-150)
- Wijayaratna, Mohan. *Buddhist Monastic Life*.

Week 8 Merit, power, kingship and state
- Spiro. *Buddhism and Society*. chap.16 (378-395)
- Ishii. *Sangha, State and Society*. chap.2-3 (34-66)
- Sarkisyanz, E. *Buddhist Background of the Burmese Revolution*. chap. 4-5,7-10,14-15 (26-36, 43-67, 87-97)
- Reynolds, Craig J. *The Buddhist Monkhood in the Nineteenth Century Thailand*. chap 1

Week 9 Religious legitimation of power and rebellions