Southeast Asia is a region that today consists of eleven nations: Brunei, Cambodia (Kampuchea), East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, each with its own history, cultural and ethnic diversity, and political and socioeconomic conditions. Nevertheless, it is a region--between China and India--that has over the centuries come to possess many cultural and historical similarities and continuities that make it unique. Most of the nations that comprise Southeast Asia are of modern origin, having emerged in their current forms in the 20th century and under the influence of Western colonialism. In this course we will explore the history of this region from its prehistoric roots to the early decades of the 19th century. During this long period of time, the formation of states and the locations of major ethnic groups will change, in some cases dramatically. We will approach the history of this diverse region by focusing on three broad periods: 1) prehistory and early historical developments (to c.800 CE); 2) the classical states and societies (c.800 to c.1400 CE) (with an emphasis on Angkor); and 3) the early modern states and societies (c.1400 to c.1830). Within these broad and overlapping time frames, the course will explore several topics and themes, among them: ethnic migrations and interactions; Indic and Chinese political and cultural influences; the origins and forms of indigenous states (kingdoms and empires); the spread of major religions and the impact of religious conversions and institutions; and patterns of social organization and gender relations. Southeast Asia was a region that responded to economic, social, political, religious, and cosmological ideas and constructs beyond the region itself; its people were not passive recipients but were active participants in developing the states, societies, and religious systems that came to play a major part in their lives. For most of its history, Southeast Asians themselves selected and adapted - indigenized and vernacularized - external elements and combined them with their own cultural, social organizational, and political realities, creating over the centuries a dynamic region of the world. By the end of the 18th and the start of the 19th centuries (where this course ends), most of the Southeast Asia was being overwhelmed by European colonial regimes, which resulted in a brief but transformative new period in the region's history (the colonial period). This course will concentrate on the long period of Southeast Asian history that preceded the major colonial conquests.

Most of the required readings for this course will be electronic and available through My UW (under Library Reserves and Learn@UW); hard copies of the books and articles required for the course will also be on reserve at the College Library. There are two textbooks required for the course:

*The Civilization of Angkor,* by Charles Higham.

*The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia,* edited by N. Tarling.

These textbooks are available at the Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative (426 W. Gilman).
COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

There are three kinds of readings for the course:
1) the textbooks (indicated below by "textbook")
2) electronic readings or e-reserves (indicated below by "**")
3) online sources, such as JSTOR (mainly for V. Lieberman)

September 3-10 (9/6: Labor Day) (3 lectures)

INTRODUCTION


PART I. PREHISTORY AND EARLY HISTORY: SOUTHEAST TO c.800 CE

September 13-17 (3 lectures)

PRE-HISTORY: Agriculture, Trade, and More Complex Societies to 200 CE


September 20-24 (3 lectures)

EMERGING POLITIES: Local Societies and Indic Influences to c.1000 CE


September 27-29 (2 lectures)

**EMERGING POLITIES:** The Vietnamese and "Han" Expansion to c.1000


**S. O’Harrow.** "From Co-loa to the Trung Sisters’ Revolt: Vietnam as the Chinese Found It" *Asian Perspectives* 22(2) 1979: 140-163.


II. **CLASSICAL STATES AND SOCIETIES: c.800 to c.1400**

October 1-8 (4 lectures)

**CLASSICAL STATES AND SOCIETIES:** c.800 to c.1400

**General**


**Angkor: Khmer**

Select two groups for comparison with Angkor (one mainland, one maritime):

Champa: Cham


Pagan: Burman, Mon, and Pyu


Dai Viet: Vietnamese


Sukhothai/Ayutthaya: Thai


Srivijaya: Malay


Java and Majapahit: Javanese


October 11 (1 lecture)

**POLITICAL DISINTEGRATION:** Factors in the Decline of Classical States


**FIRST TAKE-HOME EXAM:** Distributed October 11, returned October 13.

PART III. EARLY MODERN STATES AND SOCIETIES: c.1400 to c.1830

October 13-18 (3 lectures)

**EARLY MODERN STATES AND SOCIETIES:** An Overview, c.1400-c.1830


October 20-29 (5 lectures)

**EARLY MODERN STATES AND SOCIETIES:** Constructing a Framework for c.1400-c.1830


**Also available in hardcopy file at College Reserves**
November 1-5 (3 lectures)

ISLAS FILIPINAS: An Early Modern Southeast Asia State and Society


SECOND TAKE-HOME EXAM: Distributed November 5 returned November 8.

November 8-12 (3 lectures)

THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN "STATE" BEFORE c.1830


November 15-19 (3 lectures)

KINGSHIP, POWER, AND LEGITIMACY


November 22-December 1 (11/26: Thanksgiving; 4 lectures)

RELIGION AND SOCIETY


December 3-10 (4 lectures)

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION, "SLAVERY," AND CHANGING GENDER RELATIONS


THIRD TAKE-HOME EXAM: Distributed December 10, returned December 15.

December 13-15 (2 lectures)

FROM "GNATS" TO "VULTURES": The Challenge of the West
