Southeast Asia is comprised of basically two regions: the mainland which includes Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam; and the island world which includes the Philippines, Indonesia, Brunei, Singapore and Malaysia, although the last one is on the southern tip of the peninsula, not an island. The distinction is made not only by geography, but also to a great extent by their historical and cultural differences.

Except Vietnam, the mainland countries are distinctive not only to the region but to the world in that including Sri Lanka they are the homeland of Theravada Buddhism. Most people in the West who know Asia via China and Japan will encounter the Mahayana Buddhism which is now practiced in Vietnam as well. But to the rest of mainland Southeast Asia, over 120,000,000 people today, they have known, practiced, and historically lived under the influence of Theravada Buddhism for about a thousand years. With the modernization and secularization in those countries taken place less than 150 years ago, the influence of religious tradition is very high even among the so-called socialist countries like Laos and Cambodia. It is not overstated that it is impossible to know those countries and people without recognizing the role of Theravada Buddhism.

Amidst the courses on Chinese and Japanese or Tibetan Buddhism, this course introduces another Buddhism. It is not the aim of this course, however, to study the Theravada’s tenet or 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 of and on the religion as the countries have gone through colonialism and modern industrialization 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 students may not be familiar with, the course will explore major topics instead of a chronology, however. No previous knowledge is required: nor is the ability to memorize all the dates and unfamiliar terms and names. What is required is attention, enthusiasm, patience to learn about unfamiliar culture, plus imagination.

Class: Two 75-min. lectures a week. Questions are welcome any time in and/or at the end of the class.
Office Hours: Rm. 5211 Humanities ph. 263-8931
Wednesday and Thursday 2:00-3:00 and by appointment
Grading:
1. One mid-term take-home exam. probably in week 7 (20%). The question will be handed out at least a week in advance. The answer must not exceed 4 pages (double space).
2. One research paper about 10 pages, plus notes and references at the end. Due Thursday, April 15. (40%) (15-20 pages and 50% for graduate students).
3. Final exam (see the Time-table) 40% (30% for grad.students)
What is expected from students is not the ability to copy or paraphrase the lecture or reading materials, but one’s understanding, in her/his own words, of the topics; his/her ability to communicate in writing, the basic research skill like library search for relevant materials, and the ability to explain a question either by analysis or description. Originality, creativity and imagination will be bonus.

Required Textbooks:
Smith, Bardwell. *Religion and Legitimation of Power* in Thailand Laos and Burma
Spio, Melford. *Buddhism and Society: A Great Tradition and its Burmese Vicissitudes*
Tambiah, S.J. *World Conqueror and World Renouncer*
*The Course-pack for History 459-Spring 1993* (available at the Copy Center of Humanities Building, Rm.1650 Humanities)

Recommended Textbooks:
Sarkisyanz, E. *Buddhist Backgrounds of the Burmese Revolution*. (This book is a classic one, very good for our class. Unfortunately it is old and out of print. There are many copies in the libraries, and in the reserves.)
Ishii, Yoneo. *Sangha. State and Society: Thai Buddhism in History:*
Jong-Thain, Michael. *Began: the Origin of Modern Burma*
Jackson, Peter A. *Buddhism, Legitimation and Conflict: Urban Thai Buddhism*
Keyes. Charles F. *Thailand: Buddhist Kingdom as a Modern Nation-state*

Note on the List of Readings:
1. The books below with the * mark are required readings in each week. They are in either the required textbooks or in the coursepack (except the ones marked *!). The rest are recommended for anyone interested in particular topics.
2. The titles of many books will be in a shorten form after the first references. The number at the end of each item is page number.

WEEK 1 (Jan 19) Introduction: aims and objective of the course: business: assignments: expectation.
Reading: No.

EARLY HISTORY

WEEK 2 (Jan 26) A general outline of history (cont.) Early religions before Theravada and introduction of Theravada to Southeast Asia; localization of Buddhism in Southeast Asia
Reading: * Hazra, Kanai Lal. *History of Theravada Buddhism in Southeast Asia.* chap.3-4 (49-82)
- Coedes, George. *The Making of Southeast Asia.* 10-87
- Than Tun. *Essays on the History and Buddhism of Burma.* 3-58
IDEAS

WEEK 3 (Feb 2) Basic concepts: Nivarna, Karma, merit
Reading:
* Spiro. Buddhism and Society. chap. 2. 4. 5 (31-65, 92-139)
* Spiro. Melford. Burmese Supernaturalism
* Aung-Thwin. Pagan. chap. 2 (30-47)

WEEK 4 (Feb 9) Buddhism, Hinduism, animism: popular belief: the Jataka
Reading:
* Spiro. Buddhism and Society. chap. 6.7 (140-87)
* Spiro. Burmese Supernaturalism.
* Anuman Rajadhon. Popular Buddhism in Siam and Other Essays on Thai Studies. 25-68, 99-168
* Tambiah, S.J. Buddhism and the Spirit Cults in Northeast Thailand. chap 13-20 (223-366)
* Terwiel, B.J. Monks and Magic.
* The Pali Text Society. Jataka Tales: Birth Stories of the Buddha

WEEK 5 (Feb 16) The sangha
Reading:
* Tambiah. S.J. The Buddhist Saints of the Forest and the Cult of Amulets. chap. 5 (53-77), "The forest-monk tradition"
* Ishii. Sangha, State and Society. chap 1 (3-33)
* Reynolds. Craig J. The Buddhist Monkhood in the Nineteenth Century Thailand. chap 2
* Lester, Robert C. Theravada Buddhism in Southeast Asia chap 5-7 (83-150)

WEEK 6 (Feb 23) Cosmology and social order
Reading:
* Heine-Geldern. Robert. Conceptions of State and Kingship in Southeast Asia
* Keyes. Charles F. "Mother or Mistress but Never a Monk.
Buddhist Notions of Female Gender in Rural Thailand.


- Sarkisyanz. E. *Buddhist Background of the Burmese Revolution*. chap.11.13 (68-74. 82-86)

**WEEK 7 (Mar 2)**  

*Merit and power, state, and kingship*

- Tambiah, S.J. *World Conqueror and World Renouncer*., chap.2. 4-7. (9-18, 32-131)
- 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 8**  

*SPRING RECESS* Mar 6-14
WEEK 9 (Mar 16) Religious reform and pre-modern politics:

Reading: * Saverer, Donald and Premchit, Sommai. "The Relations Between the Religious and Political Order in Northern Thailand (14th-16th c.)." in ed. Bardwell Smith. Religion and Legitimation of Power. 20-33
* Butt, John W. "Thai Kingship and Religious Reform." in ibid. 34-51
* Reynolds, Craig J. "Religious Historical Writing and the Legitimation of the First Bangkok Reign." in eds. David Marr and Anthony Reid. Perceptions of the Past in Southeast Asia. 90-107

BUDDHIST ECONOMY

WEEK 10 (Mar 23) Two propositions on the Buddhist "Moral Economy"

Reading: * Scott, James C. The Moral Economy of the Peasant: Rebellion and Subsistence in Southeast Asia.
* Evans, Grant. From Moral Economy to Remembered Village

PEASANT REBELLION

WEEK 11 (Mar 30) Peasant rebellions and the ideas of Utopia

* Turton, Andrew and Tanabe, Shigeharu eds. History and Peasant Consciousness in South East Asia. see introduction, and the articles by Tanabe, Chatthip Nartsupha. "5-134
* Spiro. Buddhism and Society. 171-180
* Ishii. Sangha. State and Society. chap.9 (171-187)
* Ishii, Yoneo. "A Note on Millennial Revolts in Northeastern Siam." Journal of Southeast Studies. 6:2, 121-126
* Tambiah. Buddhist Saints of the Forest. chap.20 (293-320)
* Sarkisyanz, E. Buddhist Background of the Burmese Revolution. chap. 21-22 (149-65)
TRANSITION

WEEK 12 (Apr 6)  Responses to the West (1) Siam: Modern Buddhist ideas and sangha: national integration

* Tambiah, S.J. World Conqueror and World Renouncer. chap. 10-12 (179-261)
- Alabaster, Henry. The Modern Buddhist. Being the Views of a Siamese Minister of State on His Own and Other Religions.
- Ishii. Sangha, State and Society. chap.8 (146-170)
- Reynolds, Craig J. The Buddhist Monkhood in Nineteenth Century Thailand. chap. 3-4

WEEK 13 (Apr 13)  Response to the West (2) Burma: Buddhist movements for independence

Reading:  * Sarkisyanz, E. Buddhist Backgrounds of the Burmese Revolution. 110-179
- Smith, Donald E. Religion and Politics in Burma. chap 3

BUDHISM AND MODERN NATIONS

WEEK 14 (Apr 20)  The sangha and state in recent history

Reading:  1. Siam
* Tambiah, S.J. World Conqueror and World Renouncer. chap.18-19 (434-63, 472-514)
* Keyes, Charles F. "Political Crisis and Militant Buddhism." in ibid. 147-164
OR 2. Burma
*! Sarkisyanz, E. Buddhist Backgrounds of the Burmese Revolution. chap 25-28 (192-236)
- Ishii. Sangha, State and Society. chap. 4.6.7 (67-80, 100-145)
- Mendelsohn, E. Michael. Sangha and State. chap.5 (236-298)
- Smith, Donald E. Religion and Politics. chap.5.7
WEEK 15 (Apr 27) Buddhism in the world of modern technology and capitalism
Reading: - Jackson, Peter A. Buddhism Legitimation and Conflict.
   section 2
- Sulak Sivaraksa. Seeds of Peace
- Sulak Sivaraksa. Siam in Crisis
- Jackson, Peter A. "The Hupphasawan Movement: Millennial
   Buddhism among Thai Political Elite." SOJOURN: Social Issues
   in Southeast Asia. 3:2, 134-170
- Zehner, Edwin. "Reform Symbolism of a Thai Middle-class
   Sect: the Growth and Appeal of the Thammakai Movement."
   Journal of Southeast Asian Studies. 21:2. 402-426
- Taylor, J.L. "Living on the Rim: Ecology and Forest Monks in
   Northeast Thailand." SOJOURN. 6:1. 106-125
- Somboon Suksamran. Political Buddhism in Southeast Asia: the
   sangha in the Modernization of Thailand. chap.3.4

WEEK 16 (May 4) [Final remarks ?]
16. City Slave (pseu.) "The Spirits of the Yellow Leaves." (This is a material for the mid-term exam.)