Located between the Chinese and Indic civilizations, Southeast Asia has been a region of striking diversity where indigenous cultures encountered and were enriched by the world’s major influences (from major religions like Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Confucianism to Westernization) for more than two thousand years. Yet what makes the region distinctive is the subtle commonality of local polities and cultures. The complex traditions which have shaped the history of the region are very much alive today despite colonization and Westernization since the 19th century.

This class explores major themes and topics in the history of the region before 1800 rather than a chronology or narrative of major events in individual countries. No prior knowledge is required. Nonetheless, students are expected to work hard to help themselves familiar with basic names, events, and chronology, especially of the countries of their interest. The enthusiasm to learn other cultures and to study the unfamiliar, thus difficult, materials, is required. Imagination is needed.

Office Hours M 12:30-14:00; 5211 Humanities. Ph.263-8931 Email: twinicha@facstaff.wisc.edu

Required Textbooks (available in the Reserves and for purchase at the University Book Store).
- Tarling, Nicholas (ed.). *The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia: From Early Times to c. 1500* Cambridge Univ Press, 2000
- Tarling, Nicholas (ed.). *The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia: From c. 1500 to c. 1800* Cambridge Univ Press, 2000

Recommended Texts

Readings: Every week students must do at least the Required Readings (**). The Recommended ones (*) should be read in case students cannot find the required. Most required materials can be found in the textbooks (available in the Reserves and for purchase at the bookstore). In addition to the original journals, many required and recommended articles can also be found under Thongchai Winichakul, *History 755 Reader* or *History 457 Reader* of previous years in the Reserves.

Assignments (Details to be discussed in the first meeting)
1. Weekly reading and discussion. Attendance and participation in class discussion is important.
2. Creating a syllabus of the history of ONE country in Southeast Asia from early times to 1800
3. One research papers (approx. 20 pages)
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 of the semester: school starts on Tuesday Sept 4.

Week 2 (Sept 10)  Introduction to the course
- The course: objectives, scope, contents, assignments, reading materials, and other class business.
- What is history? 1) The past and its legacies in the present; 2) the writing: interpretations and concepts based on evidence.
- Southeast Asia: Diversity and similarity

** Reid, Anthony. Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce 1450-1860, vol. 1, 1-119

Week 3 (Sept 17)  Geography, prehistory, the earlier polities, and the question on "Indianization VS. Localization"

Geography
** Please study a good topographical atlas of Southeast Asia, paying attention to river systems, valleys and deltas, highlands, rainfalls.

About prehistory and early polities
** One of the following (or both if you can)
- Tarling (ed.), Cambridge History of Southeast Asia: From Early Times to c. 1500, chap 2 by Peter Bellwood. (Try to get the main points, not the technical details)

Indianization vs. Localization
** Coedes. The Indianized States of Southeast Asia, 14-35 (also in History 755 Reader, Fall 1998)
** Wolters, O.W. History, Culture and Region in Southeast Asia Perspectives, 15-26, 41-67, 107-125.
* Hall, K. The Maritime Trade and Early History of Southeast Asia, 1-25.

Week 4 (Sept 24)  The classical "states" (Pagan and Angkor), and the 13th-14th c. transition
** Tarling (ed.), Cambridge History of Southeast Asia: From Early Times c. 1500, pp. 137-172 (chap 3 by Keith Taylor and chap 4 by Kenneth Hall)
* Kulke, Hermann. "The Early and Imperial Kingdoms in Southeast Asian History," in Southeast Asia in the 9th to 14th, 1-22.
* Hall, K. Maritime Trade, 78-102, 169-93
* Coedes. Making of South-East Asia, 121-34 (about the 13th c. transition)

[What was a “state”?: kingdom, empire and mandala – to be discussed during week 4-6]
** Wolters, O.W. History, Culture and Region in Southeast Asia Perspectives, 27-40, 126-154.
** Kulke, Hermann. "The Early and Imperial Kingdoms in Southeast Asian History," in Southeast Asia in the 9th to 14th, 1-22 (also in History 755 Reader, Fall 98)


** Week 5 (Oct 1) ** Consolidation and Expansion in the Mainland (15th-18th c.)


* Tarling (ed.) The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia: From c. 1500 to c. 1800, chap2 by Barbara Watson Andaya


** Week 6 (Oct 8) ** The Age of Commerce (15th-17th c.): Empires, Expansion and Crisis

** Reid. Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce, vol. 2. 1-61, 204-266

* Tarling (ed.).The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia: From c. 1500 to c. 1800, chap3 by Reid

** Week 7 (Oct 15) ** Power, kingship, and moral legitimacy


** Heine-Geldem, Robert. Conceptions of State and Kingship in Southeast Asia.

* Wolters. History, Culture and Region, 93-95, 226-228, 107-125.

** Week 8 (Oct 22) ** Guest lecture by Peter Boomgارد on population in pre-colonial SEA

(Reading list will be provided later)

** Week 9 (Oct 29) ** Social classes: lords, bonded people, slaves, aliens and foreigners

* About bondage and slavery

** Reid, Anthony. ed. Slavery, Bondage and Dependency in Southeast Asia. 1-43


* About the Chinese and other foreigners

** Tarling (ed.).The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia: From c. 1500 to c. 1800, chap 1 by Leonard Andaya, (first half of the chapter)


* About women


** Week 10 (Nov 5) ** No Class
**Week 11 (Nov 12) Religions**

** Tarling (ed.) *Cambridge History of Southeast Asia: From Early Times c. 1500*, chap 5 by de Casparis and Mabbett

** Tarling (ed.) *Cambridge History of Southeast Asia: From c. 1500 to c. 1800*, chap 4 by Barbara Andaya and Yoneo Ishii


**Week 12 (Nov 19) Transition at the dawn of the colonial period**

** Tarling (ed.). *The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia: From c. 1500 to c. 1800*, chap 1 by Leonard Andaya, (the second half of the chapter)

** Tarling (ed.). *The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia: From c. 1500 to c. 1800*, chap 5 by Kathirithamby-Wells


**Week 13 (Nov 26) (Topic to be determined later)**

**Week 14 (Dec 3) Historiography: questions on historians’ perspectives**


* Wolters. *History, Culture and Region*, postscript IV pp. 155-175


**Week 15 (Dec 10) If needed**