

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—MADISON

College of Letters and Science

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

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Memo: History 573/755, Empire & Revolution in Southeast Asia
From: Alfred W. McCoy
To: Diane Franzen
Date: 13 March 1991

HISTORY 573/755: Fall Semester, 1991-1992

Course Title: *Empire & Revolution in Southeast Asia*

Professor: Alfred W. McCoy

Day & Time: Wednesday, 4:00-6:00 pm

Course Description: The seminar surveys the expansion of European empires into Southeast Asia and the response of the region's indigenous societies. Starting with general readings on the nature of imperial expansion throughout the Third World, the course introduces the student to the dynamics of empire and processes of both resistance and revolution in modern Southeast Asia.

Once familiarized with analytical tools not used in the introductory textbooks, students will move on to study the theoretical literature that scholars have drawn upon to produce their books and articles. To understand, for example, the debate over the role of the Vietnamese village in that nation's recent revolutions, students will read accounts of village society in Samoa and central Mexico. In the seminar's final sessions, students will study the role of the colonial past in shaping the present by reading about the rise of authoritarian states in contemporary Southeast Asia.

Hopefully, students will emerge from the course with a better understanding of both the specifics of Southeast Asian social history and, more broadly, the processes of historical change throughout the Third World.

Grading: Students shall make one oral presentation and complete two pieces of written work. At each seminar, one student shall open the class with a 15 minute discussion of the week's readings. Within a week after the oral presentation, the student who led the discussion shall submit a 5-page written summary of the topic, sourced to the "recommended" readings for that week in the course syllabus. At the end of Week 12, students shall submit a 10-15 page research essay, sourced to both the syllabus and additional references. The weighting of grades in the course is:

- oral discussion & brief written summary: **50%**
- research essay: **40%**
- class participation: **10%**

Seminar's Goals: As the final phase of the undergraduate History major at the University of Wisconsin, the seminar allows students an opportunity both to reflect upon lessons learned in past courses and to refine essential academic skills--critical reading, academic analysis, primary research, expository writing and oral expression.

Seminar Interviews: Mondays, 4:00pm to 6:00 pm, Room 5131 Humanities Building.