HH2025 The World of Southeast Asia to 1600

[Lecture: 26 hours; Tutorials: 13 hours; Pre-requisites: nil; Academic Unit: 3.0]

Lecture: Monday, 09:30-11:30
Venue: HSS Seminar Room 9
Tutorials: Monday, 12:30-13:30, 13:30-14:30
Venue: S3.2 SR4 SOUTH, S3.2-B3-04

Instructor: Assoc Prof Goh Geok Yian
Email: gygh@gmail.com
Office: HSS-05-09*
Office hours: 3-4:30PM (Monday), the better option is to arrange a meeting by appointment

*I am usually in my ACR office, so it would be best if you make an appointment via email before coming to see me.

Learning Objective
To provide students with an understanding of:

a) major themes pertaining to the study of ancient Southeast Asia until 1600.
b) the theoretical issues and works representing ancient Southeast Asian scholarship
c) new directions and approaches in the study of ancient Southeast Asia
d) the place of ancient Southeast Asia in its artistic, archaeological and historical context and in global history.

Content
This course examines the relationship between art, archaeology, and history in ancient Southeast Asia. This course spans the period from prehistory until 1600 which marks the approximate point when Southeast Asian polities and cultures began to change as a result of the forces of early colonialism. The course readings cover conventional themes in Southeast Asian ancient history. Topics include “Indianization” (or Sanskritization as some scholars prefer to term it) in
connection with Hindu and Buddhist concepts of kingship, processes of urbanization and state formation, networks of communications and trade, and their impact on the development of intellectual ideas, religious practices, art and architecture; and comparisons between the ideas of earlier Southeast Asian historians and new perspectives. This course will end with new data from the field by archaeologists and other scholars. There will also be discussions about whether the data support or refute established notions of the Southeast Asian past.

Course Textbook

Course Outline

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<th>S/N</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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| 1   | **January 15**  

*Introduction: Historiography of Ancient Southeast Asia*

Readings:
Miksic and Goh. *Ancient Southeast Asia*. Chapter 1 Introduction.


Supplementary readings: some of these will be provided on NTUlearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.

| 2   | **January 22**  

*Southeast Asian Prehistory*

Readings
Miksic and Goh. *Ancient Southeast Asia*. Chapter 3. Prehistory: Two million to 2,000 years ago


Supplementary readings: some of these will be provided on NTUlearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.

| 3   | **January 29**  

*Early Southeast Asian Urbanization: Protoclassic*

Readings:
Miksic and Goh. *Ancient Southeast Asia*. Chapter 4. Protoclassic: 1 to 600 CE.

**February 5: no class as I will be away for a conference**

**February 12**

*State Formation and Early Models of Statecraft: Early Classic Period*

**Readings:**
Miksic and Goh. *Ancient Southeast Asia*. Chapter 5. Early Classic: 600 to 900 CE.


**Supplementary readings:** some of these will be provided on NTUlearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.

**February 19**

*Middle Classic Period*

**Reading:**
Miksic and Goh. *Ancient Southeast Asia*. Chapter 6. The Middle Classic: 900 to 1200 CE.

**Supplementary readings:** some of these will be provided on NTUlearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.

**February 26**

*Late Classic Period*

**Reading:**
Miksic and Goh. *Ancient Southeast Asia*. Chapter 7. Late Classic: 1200 to 1400 CE


[www.pnas.org/content/107/15/6748.full](http://www.pnas.org/content/107/15/6748.full)

**Supplementary readings:** some of these will be provided on NTUlearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.
| 7 | March 12  
*Trade and Society: South China Sea*  

**Readings**  

**Supplementary readings:** some of these will be provided on NTULearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.

| 8 | March 19  
*Trade and Society: Indian Ocean*  

**Readings:**  
Supplementary readings: some of these will be provided on NTUlearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.

9
March 26
Religion and Transformation: Hinduism and Mahayana

Readings:


Supplementary readings: some of these will be provided on NTUlearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.

10
April 2
Religion and Transformation: Theravada Buddhism

Readings:


**Learning Outcome**
Students will gain a complete understanding of the art, archaeology, and history of ancient Southeast Asia from the earliest times to 1600.

**Student Assessment (100% Continuous Assessment)**
Based on the objectives of the course, the use of 100% continuous assessment is most appropriate to evaluate the learning outcomes.

Students will be assessed by:

a. **Short Paper Responses (24%)**
   Students are required to submit three (3) short paper responses (600 words each) during the semester. The topics for these response papers will be given in class: two in the first half and one in the second half. Students are expected to utilize relevant course readings to write these response papers. Responses are due one week later. Students must upload their responses to course website’s Turnitin folder by **23.09**.

b. **Group Presentations (30%)**
   Students are expected to take turns to present readings to the class in groups of maximum three persons. Students will present and lead discussions during these presentations; each student group is expected to complete a total of three (3) presentations. Students will sign up for these presentation groups on NTULearn course website. Each presentation should not exceed 15 minutes (5 minutes per presenter). The sign-up list will be made available on NTULearn during the second week of the official teaching semester (first week of tutorial meetings).

c. **Participation in class discussions (10%)**
   Students are expected to participate in class discussions and any activities conducted within the classroom.

d. **Research Paper (36%)**

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**Supplementary readings:** some of these will be provided on NTULearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.
Students are required to submit a final research paper of 3,000 words, exclusive of citations and bibliography. The topic of this paper must be related to one or several themes examined in this course. The **deadline** for the paper is: **April 9, 23:09**.

**References**


