Date: 25 February 2015
Academic Year: 2015/2016 Semester 1
Study Year (if applicable): 3
Course Code & Title: HH3023 Burma/Myanmar: A History
Academic Unit: 3.0
Pre-requisite: HH1002 or HH1008

Learning Objective
To provide students with an understanding of:
a) a history of Burma/Myanmar from prehistory to the present day
b) the theoretical issues pertinent to the study of Burmese historiography
c) the place of Burma/Myanmar in Southeast Asia and the world.

Content
This three-hour seminar examines the development of cultures, peoples, polities, and societies which occupy the territory of what constitutes the modern nation-state of Myanmar. This course presents a diachronic account of the beginning of cultures in prehistoric Myanmar starting with what archaeologists and palaeoanthropologists identified as the prehistoric communities who established settlements in Iron Age sites such as those in Ywa Htin and Nyaunggan. These sites are significant because they formed the early connecting nodes of what might have been an extensive network of technology transfer along the north-south and east-west corridors linking China and India via mainland Southeast Asia. This course then examines key themes of each important historical periods to provide a continuous and coherent account of the geo-spatial entity, Burma/Myanmar up to the 21st century.

Course Outline

<table>
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<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Seminar Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to the course: some key themes, approaches, periods, and concepts. Burma: an overview: geography, environment, climate, people, culture etc</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Prehistory</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Pre-Bagan Burma: “Pyu” and other “urban” sites</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Bagan: capital and polity of the first Myanmar Empire</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>After Bagan: Ava and Bago – fragmentary polities?</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Taungngu: Hanthawati-Bago</td>
<td>3</td>
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Learning Outcome
Students will gain a complete and comprehensive understanding of a history of Burma/Myanmar from prehistory until today.

Student Assessment (100% CA)
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 (20%)
Students are required to submit four (4) short paper responses (400-500 words each) during the semester. The topics for these response papers will be given in class: two in the first half and two in the second half. Students are expected to utilize relevant course readings to write these response papers.

b) Presentations (30%)
Students are expected to take turns to present readings to the class in a pair. Students will present and lead discussions during these presentations; each student pair is expected to complete a total of three (3) presentations.

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

d) Research Paper (40%)
Students are required to submit a final research paper of 3,500-4,000 words, exclusive of citations and bibliography. The topic of this paper must be related to one or several themes examined in this course.

Textbooks/References


