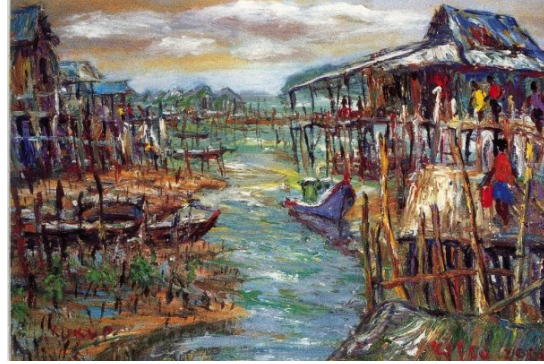


ASIAN98T

Introduction to Postcolonial
Southeast Asian Literatures:
*National Identity & Minority
Discourse*

Winter Quarter, 2011

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30-1:50



Instructor: Brian Bernards, M.A., C.Phil, bernards@ucla.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11-12 or by appointment, Royce B02

Course Description:

This course offers a general introduction to the postcolonial literatures of contemporary Southeast Asia. By familiarizing ourselves with the dynamic modern histories of several Southeast Asian nations (Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and Myanmar), we will examine and discuss how contemporary Southeast Asian authors imagine and evoke national and/or minority identities in novels and works of short fiction. In particular, we interrogate issues of colonialism, revolution, immigration, the frontier, indigeneity, multilingualism, multiculturalism, and transnationalism as they appear in national and minority discourses. *No prior knowledge of Southeast Asian history, cultures, or languages is assumed or required. All readings are either in English translation or English original.*

Required Texts (available at ASUCLA Bookzone):

- Course Reader (contents listed below)
- Pramoedya Ananta Toer, *This Earth of Mankind* (Trans. Max Lane, New York: Penguin, 1996)
- Duong Thu Huong, *Paradise of the Blind* (Trans. Phan Huy Duong and Nina McPherson, New York: Penguin, 1993)
- Botan, *Letters from Thailand* (Trans. Susan F. Kepner, Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2002)
- Zhang Guixing, *My South Seas Sleeping Beauty: A Tale of Memory and Longing* (Trans. Valerie Jaffee, New York: Columbia University Press, 2007)

Recommended References (available for 2-hr reserve at College Library loan desk):

- Mary Somers Heidhues, *Southeast Asia: A Concise History* (London: Thames & Hudson, 2000)
- Teri Shaffer Yamada, *Modern Short Fiction of Southeast Asia: A Literary History* (Ann Arbor: Association for Asian Studies, 2009)
- Norman Owen, et al, *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia: A New History* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2005)

Student Requirements & Grading:

- 1) **Weekly Readings & Seminar Participation (15%).** This course is a discussion-based seminar, therefore you must demonstrate that you have critically read required weekly text(s) by conscientiously engaging in classroom discussions. Students are expected to contribute thoughtful comments and/or raise critical questions for the benefit of the seminar. I will provide a list of thematic questions prior to each session that will enable you to more efficiently tackle each week's readings and prepare to contribute (students may access these questions through the course website). *You need to have finished the specified reading prior to attending each session.*
 - 2) **Two (2) Small Group Panel Presentations (15% each – 30% total).** In small groups of 3 to 4 students, you will present your preliminary responses to weekly reading questions distributed by the instructor. The format for the presentation is flexible: certain questions may be delegated to individual students, or you may jointly present responses to the same question as a lively debate. You are not expected to have a cohesive or conclusive argument, but simply to have read the materials and prepared some preliminary thoughts on the major issues for the weekly reading. Panelists are expected to field questions and comments from the other students.
 - 3) **Two (2) Discussion Reports (10% each – 20% total).** One week following your panel presentation, you are required to submit a 2-3 page report, summarizing your individual responses to the specific discussion questions that you addressed in your presentation and detailing how your ideas have further developed or been challenged. You are welcome to draw attention to or quote specific passages in the readings that interest you or illustrate your arguments and ideas.
 - 4) **Final Paper (35%).** The final paper is intended to be developed in guided stages:
 - **Topic Proposal (5%).** This 2-3 page proposal should be handed in at the beginning of the first session during week 8. It is very strongly recommended that you construct your paper topic from one of your discussion reports. Your proposal should include a thesis statement indicating what you intend to argue and how. I will provide a guide for proper citation format, such as paraphrasing and use of quotes.
 - **Individual Paper Conference with Instructor (3%).** Individual meetings of 10-15 minutes will be scheduled during week 8 so that we can discuss your paper topic and plan. Students are strongly encouraged to seek additional assistance from the College Composition Tutoring Laboratory (228 Sunset Commons, 310-206-1491) or visit me during regular office hours.
 - **Final Draft (27%).** A hard copy of an 8-10 page paper, double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font with a Works Cited page, is due in my mailbox by 5pm on Wednesday of finals week. No late papers will be accepted and no incompletes will be given without documented proof of a medical emergency. Graded papers will be scanned and returned to the student via email attachment in .pdf format over the holiday.
- ❖ **Optional Extra Credit (up to 3%):** Write a 1-2 page response to either or both of the Singaporean films viewed during week eight. Try to address the ways in

which the films relate to the major issues of national identity and minority discourse we have been discussing in regards to literature. Due week 10.

I. MAPPING SOUTHEAST ASIA

Week 1: Course Overview

Tuesday

Introduction to the study of Southeast Asia as a geographical and historical region. Handout of map. Outline of course themes. Please introduce yourselves.

Thursday

Why “Southeast Asia”? Why “postcolonial” literature?

Reading discussion:

Donald Emmerson, “‘Southeast Asia’: What’s in a Name?” [1984]
(in Course Reader [hereafter marked “CR”])

Fredric Jameson, “Third World Literature in the Era of Multinational Capitalism”
[1986] (CR)

Please sign up for two (2) group presentations.

II. ENVISIONING THE NATION FROM COLONIAL INSTITUTIONS

Week 2: Indonesia (Java)

Tuesday

Overview of Indonesian History: From the Dutch East Indies to *Pancasila* and “Unity in Diversity.” Background on Pramoedya and the *Buru Quartet*. Discussion: what is colonial education?

Thursday

Group #1 Panel Presentation and Reading Discussion:

Pramoedya Ananta Toer, *This Earth of Mankind* [*Bumi Manusia*, 1980]

Week 3: The Philippines (Manila)

Tuesday

Overview of Filipino history: “Souls and Swords” – Navigating and Resisting Spanish and American Conquest. Background on Nick Joaquin and *Tropical Gothic*. Discussion: what is double consciousness? What does it mean to write in the language of the colonizer?

Thursday (*Group #1 Discussion Reports due at the beginning of class*)

Group #2 Panel Presentation and Reading Discussion:

Nick Joaquin, “Doña Jerónima” and “The Woman Who Had Two Navels” [1972]

III. POST-REVOLUTIONARY DISILLUSIONMENT

Week 4: Vietnam (Hanoi)

Tuesday

Overview of Vietnamese history: The Ravages of Continued War and National Mobilization. Background on Duong Thu Huong and *Paradise of the Blind*. Discussion: what does socialist revolution and national mobilization mean before and after independence?

Thursday (*Group #2 Discussion Reports due at the beginning of class*)

Group #3 Panel Presentation and Reading Discussion:

Duong Thu Huong, *Paradise of the Blind* [*Nhung thiên đường mù*, 1988]

IV. IMMIGRATION & THE CAPITAL

Week 5: Thailand (Bangkok) & China (Teochiu)

Tuesday

Overview of Central Thai history: The Monarchy and the Merchant Class. Background on Botan and *Letters from Thailand*. Discussion: what is minority discourse? What does assimilation presume?

Thursday (*Group #3 Discussion Reports due at the beginning of class*)

Group #4 Panel Presentation and Reading Discussion:

Botan โบตัน, *Letters from Thailand* [จดหมายจากเมืองไทย, 1969]

V. THE LANGUAGE OF THE FRONTIER: SETTLERS & INDIGENES

Week 6: Thailand – Northeast (Lao), North (Hmong), & South (Orang Laut)

Tuesday

Overview of Thai history: The Thesaphiban Reforms – Creating a Buffer Zone against Colonialism and a National Frontier. Background on Kampon Boontawee’s *A Child of the Northeast*, Samruam Sing’s “The Necklace,” and Prathip Chumphon’s “Water and Earth.” Discussion: what is colonial cartography? How do geopolitical boundaries differ from topographical ones?

Thursday (*Group #4 Discussion Reports due at the beginning of class*)

Group #5 Panel Presentation and Reading Discussion:

Kampon Boontawee คำพูน บุญทวี, *A Child of the Northeast* [ลูกอีสาน, 1976]
(selections in CR)

Samruam Sing สรรวม สิงห์, “The Necklace” [กำไลคอ, 1979] (CR)

Prathip Chumphon ประทีป ชุมพล, “Water and Earth” [ผืนน้ำและแผ่นดิน, 1979]
(CR)

Week 7: Malaysia (Borneo), Brunei, & Taiwan**Tuesday**

Overview of Malaysian history: Demarcating Indigenous Territory in the Era of New Economic Policy. Background on Zhang Guixing and *My South Seas Sleeping Beauty*. Discussion: what is diaspora? What is Sinophone literature?

Thursday (*Group #5 Discussion Reports due at the beginning of class*)

Group #6 Panel Presentation and Reading Discussion:

Zhang Guixing 張貴興, *My South Seas Sleeping Beauty: A Tale of Memory and Longing* [我思念的長眠中的南國公主, 2001]

VI. MULTICULTURALISM IN THE SETTLER STATE**Week 8: Singapore (Part I)**

Tuesday (*Final Paper Topic Proposal due at the beginning of class*)

Overview of Singaporean history: “Mother Tongues” and “Father Rules” – State Directed Globalization and Cultural Values. Background on Eric Khoo’s films.

Film Viewing:

No Day Off [39 mins, dir. Eric Khoo, 2006]

Please sign up for your individual paper conference with the instructor.

Thursday (*Group #6 Discussion Reports due at the beginning of class*)

Film Viewing:

My Magic [75 mins, dir. Eric Khoo, 2008]

Week 9: Singapore (Part II)**Tuesday**

Discussion of films: how are multiculturalism and transnationalism presented in the films? What are pidgins and creoles?

Thursday

Group #7 Panel Presentation and Reading Discussion:

Suchen Christine Lim, *Fistful of Colours* [1992] (selections in CR)

VII. THE FOURTH WORLD IN THE METROPOLE**Week 10: Myanmar (Kayan Padaung) & England (London)**

Tuesday (*Optional extra credit due at the beginning of class*)

Overview of Burmese history: “Forces of Repression” – From British Burma to SLORC Myanmar. Discussion: How do political refugees fit into our understanding of transnationalism?

Thursday (*Group #7 Discussion Reports due at the beginning of class*)

Reading Discussion:

Pascal Khoo Thwe, *From the Land of Green Ghosts: A Burmese Odyssey* [2002]
(selections in CR)

Finals Week: FINAL PAPERS DUE IN MY MAILBOX BY WEDNESDAY, 5PM



New Course Proposal

	Asian 98T			
	Introduction to Postcolonial Southeast Asian Literatures: National Identity and Minority Discourse			
Course Number	Asian 98T			
Title	Introduction to Postcolonial Southeast Asian Literatures: National Identity and Minority Discourse			
Short Title	PSTCLNL SEASIAN LIT			
Units	Fixed: 5			
Grading Basis	Letter grade only			
Instructional Format	Seminar - 3 hours per week			
TIE Code	SEMT - Seminar (Topical) [T]			
GE Requirement	Yes			
Major or Minor Requirement	No			
Requisites	Satisfaction of entry-level Writing requirement. Freshmen and sophomores preferred.			
Course Description	Seminar, three hours. Enforced requisite: satisfaction of Entry-Level Writing requirement. Freshmen/sophomores preferred. Introduction to postcolonial literatures of contemporary Southeast Asia. Taking transnational literary sampling, examination of ways Southeast Asian literature envisions nation and ethnic minorities with respect to colonial history, national language, and incorporation of frontiers. Letter grading.			
Justification	Part of the series of seminars offered through the Collegium of University Teaching Fellows.			
Syllabus	File Asian 98T syllabus.doc was previously uploaded. You may view the file by clicking on the file name.			
Supplemental Information	Professor Seiji Lippit is the faculty mentor for this seminar.			
Grading Structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) weekly readings & seminar participation - 15%; 2) two small group panel presentations (15% each ? 30% total); 3) two discussion reports (10% each ? 20% total); 4) final paper (35%); optional extra credit (up to 3%). 			
Effective Date	Winter 2011			
Discontinue Date	Summer 1 2011			
Instructor	Name	Title		
	Brian Bernards	Teaching Fellow		
Quarters Taught	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Department	Asian Languages and Cultures			
Contact	Name	E-mail		
	CATHERINE GENTILE	cgentile@oid.ucla.edu		
Routing Help				

ROUTING STATUS**Role:** Registrar's Office**Status:** Processing Completed**Role:** Registrar's Publications Office - Hennig, Leann Jean (lhennig@registrar.ucla.edu) - 56704**Status:** Added to SRS on 9/16/2010 1:18:35 PM**Changes:** Description**Comments:** Edited course description into official version.**Role:** Registrar's Scheduling Office - Thomson, Douglas N (dthomson@registrar.ucla.edu) - 51441**Status:** Added to SRS on 9/9/2010 10:59:57 AM**Changes:** Short Title**Comments:** No Comments**Role:** FEC School Coordinator - Soh, Michael Young (msoh@college.ucla.edu) - 45040**Status:** Returned for Additional Info on 8/31/2010 2:19:50 PM**Changes:** No Changes Made**Comments:** Routing to Registrar's Office**Role:** FEC Chair or Designee - McClendon, Muriel C (mcclendo@history.ucla.edu) - 53918**Status:** Approved on 8/25/2010 11:31:01 AM**Changes:** No Changes Made**Comments:** No Comments**Role:** L&S FEC Coordinator - Soh, Michael Young (msoh@college.ucla.edu) - 45040**Status:** Returned for Additional Info on 8/25/2010 11:17:45 AM**Changes:** No Changes Made**Comments:** Routing to Vice Chair Muriel McClendon for FEC approval**Role:** Dean College/School or Designee - Stowell, Timothy A (tstowell@college.ucla.edu) - 54856**Status:** Approved on 8/25/2010 10:55:49 AM**Changes:** No Changes Made**Comments:** No Comments**Role:** L&S FEC Coordinator - Soh, Michael Young (msoh@college.ucla.edu) - 45040**Status:** Returned for Additional Info on 8/25/2010 10:47:45 AM**Changes:** No Changes Made**Comments:** Routing to Dean Stowell for approval**Role:** CUTF Coordinator - Gentile, Catherine (cgentile@oid.ucla.edu) - 68998**Status:** Approved on 5/12/2010 4:45:09 PM**Changes:** Grading Structure**Comments:** on behalf of Professor Kathleen L. Komar, chair, CUTF Program**Role:** Initiator/Submitter - Gentile, Catherine (cgentile@oid.ucla.edu) - 68998**Status:** Submitted on 5/12/2010 4:43:44 PM**Comments:** Initiated a New Course Proposal

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