

SOUTHEAST ASIAN CULTURES (ANTH 446) Spring 2009, Nancy I. Cooper

Students taking this course will examine Southeast Asia's cultural diversity using commonalities as entry points. The commonalities include linguistic ties, historical ties, particularly the impacts of foreign trade, introduced religions, and colonialism, and the more recent effects of development and global economic trends. Three intellectual 'threads' will be the guide through Southeast Asia: power, performance, and gender.

Attendance is necessary and will be carefully recorded. Each student will participate as part of a group in preparing one short bibliography, one oral presentation, and in being active in class discussions. Without advance notice, students may be asked to write a simple handwritten essay (quick-write exercise) in class in response to readings, a video or slide show presentation, or a guest speaker presentation. Additionally there will be two 'midterm' exams on readings and lectures and a final research paper. The final paper will utilize concepts from the course, additional resources, and one key ethnography from a list approved by the instructor. Each student will use this ethnographic knowledge in conducting a cultural analysis of a novel or autobiography (from an approved list) written by a Southeast Asian author as a simulated context or 'society'. The paper will be evaluated on how well the concepts of the course are understood and incorporated into the discussion of the novel.

This is a course suitable only for those with a strong and serious interest in anthropology and/or Southeast Asia as a whole region. Although final papers and research groups will be more specialized, all students must gain a general knowledge of the region through the required readings and lectures. It will not be sufficient to learn only about your area of special interest. It is expected that students will have already taken Southeast Asian History, Asian History, and/or introductory anthropology courses, or will be prepared to compensate for any deficiency by supplementing the required readings with appropriate sources. If you are in doubt, please contact the instructor before registering for the course. Texts include a course reader (up to two articles a week), an ethnography, one novel/biography, and outside sources compiled by your research group.

Participation (attendance, discussion, and 'quick-write' responses)	20
Group performance (bibliography and oral presentation)	20
Combined exams (two)	30
Final research paper (ten pages)	30