

BOT 498 (Mekong Ethnobotany)
Tuesdays & Thursdays
10:30-11:45AM
St. John 400

Course Description

This course will provide a high-level, integrated biological science and area-studies course that is relevant to student researchers working in Southeast Asia. Students will learn about ethnobotanical, biogeographical, biological and conservation concepts. More importantly, students will learn to apply these concepts in the context of Southeast Asian biological and cultural diversity. The course will lead students from the evolutionary history of Southeast Asian biodiversity to major human cultural distributions to evolution of agriculture to modern impacts on Southeast Asian biocultural diversity to current conservation research in the region. The course is divided into six sections:

- Southeast Asian Biodiversity: Evolutionary history of a tropical "hot-spot"
- Human history and ethnobotany in Southeast Asia
- Food, nutrition, and cultural diversity along the Mekong
- Modern impacts on biodiversity in Southeast Asia
- Conservation research in Southeast Asian countries
- University of Hawaii current and future research in Southeast Asia

The course will be taught in a lecture/discussion format. Students are expected to conduct hands-on work with data sets in class. Students are also expected to provide short overviews of articles that they have read prior to class. Other highlights of the course include a mini-symposium/student workshop and opportunities to interact with field researchers who are actively conducting research in the region.

Syllabus

Week	Date	Topic
		Southeast Asian Biodiversity: Evolutionary History of a Tropical "Hot Spot"
1	Jan 12 - 16	Introduction to GIS
2	Jan 19 - 23	Evolutionary Diversity within SE Asia
		Human History and Ethnobotany in SE Asia
3	Jan 26 - 30	Pleistocene Human History in SE Asia
4	Feb 2 - 6	Evolution of Agriculture in SE Asia
5	Feb 9 - 13	SE Asian History and Biodiversity
6	Feb 16 - 20	Biodiversity Invasions and Invasion Biology
		Food, Nutrition, and Cultural Diversity Along the Mekong
7	Feb 23 - 27	Food and Cultural Diversity (Upper & middle Mekong)
8	Mar 2 - 6	Food and Cultural Diversity (Middle and lower Mekong)
		Modern Impacts on Biodiversity in SE Asia
9	Mar 9 - 13	Impacts of Modern Changes in SE Asian Biodiversity I
10	Mar 16 - 20	Impacts of Modern Changes in SE Asian Biodiversity II
11	Mar 23 - 27	SPRING BREAK
		Conservation Research in SE Asian Countries
12	Mar 30 - Apr 3	Conservation Research in Lao PDR
13	Apr 6 - 10	Conservation Research in Vietnam
	April 11 (Saturday)	Saturday Workshop on Conservation in the Mekong
14	Apr 13 - 17	Conservation Research in China
15	Apr 20 - 24	Conservation Research in Cambodia
16	Apr 27 - May 1	Conservation Research in Thailand
		University of Hawaii Current Research and Future Research in SE Asia
17	May 4 - 6	Conclusions
18	May 11 - 15	FINAL EXAM