

# Human Geography of Southeast Asia

GEOGRAPHY 358  
3 credits

January 19 – May 5, 2016

Lectures: 1:00-2:15 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays  
SCIENCE HALL 350

Course Instructor:

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:45-12:45 pm  
or by appointment (via e-mail)

## Introduction

Southeast Asia is a diverse region presently containing 11 nation states (Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar (Burma), Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Brunei, Singapore and Timor Leste), and arguably the southern-most part of China, especially Yunnan Province. Within those countries a large number of peoples self-identify as members of a wide variety of ethnic groups. Some of these are found across national borders, such as the Hmong, Akha and Brao, to name just a few, while a smaller number are found in only a single country, such as the Lua of Thailand and the Lavi from Laos. Religious and class differences are also important factors, as are livelihoods and politics. The human geography of Southeast Asia is dynamic and experiencing rapid change, thus making it a particularly interesting part of the world.

This survey course is designed to introduce intermediary undergraduate students to the human geography of Southeast Asia, including the basic geography and history of the region, important political and theoretical issues, and policies and positionings of relevance for understanding the human spatiality of the region, including the ways that ethnicity and indigeneity are being evoked in Southeast Asia and amongst Southeast Asians in the United States.

The main objective of this course is to help students gain a good basic understanding of ethnic diversity and ethnic politics in Southeast Asia, as well as to gain a general understanding of transnational politics in the United States related to Southeast Asia, especially associated with the Hmong and Lao, but also in relation to other groups as well.

## Course Texts

Christopher Duncan (ed.) 2004. *Civilizing the Margins: Southeast Asian Government Policies for Development of Minorities*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London.

Anderson, Benedict 2006 (New edition). *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism*. Verso.

<http://hdl.handle.net.ezproxy.library.wisc.edu/2027/heb.01609.0001.001> (available for free as ebook)

## Evaluation and Assignments

Writing Assignment #1	15%
Writing Assignment #2	15%
Group Project Presentation	5%
Group Project Written	10%
Fun fact	5%
Mid-term Exam	15%
Final Exam	25%
Participation	10%

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100%

- 1) **Writing Assignments:** 30% (15% for each assignment). To pass the course, every student is required to complete two short concise writing assignments (double spaced, Time New Roman 12 point font, standard margins). Chicago style in-text referencing should be used (not footnotes or endnotes). These assignments are due at the beginning of class (papers handed in during class or at the end of class will be considered to be one day late) on, Tuesday March 8th, and, Tuesday April 26. Topics will be discussed during class. The first paper will be no more than 1,000 words long. The second paper will be no more than 1,200 words each (write the word count on the paper). Hard copies must be handed in, and all pages should be stapled together. E-mail submissions will not be accepted (except under exceptional circumstances, and with prior permission). Printing on two sides of the paper is acceptable, and while not required, is encouraged. There will be a 10% penalty for every calendar day any of the papers are late. There are no exceptions to this apart from cases of documented serious health problems or other documented emergencies that delay the completion of an assignment.
- 2) **Fun fact:** 5%. Everyone in the class is required to make a five minute presentation about something interesting related to ethnic identities that they have learned on their own about the human geography of Southeast Asia. Scheduling will be done with Ian Baird at least one class in advance. These short presentations will be followed by 5-10 minutes of discussion with the class.

- 3) **Group Project** 15% (10% write-up, 5% presentation). Groups of 2-3 students need to research a particular topic of their choice (with approval from professor). Each student must write a 1,500 word essay related to the project, and the group must jointly present about the topic together near the end of the semester. The written group project paper is due May 5 (the last day of class).
- 4) **Mid-term exam:** 15%. There will be a mid-term exam during regular class time, on, Tuesday, March 29. The first exam will cover the lecture material and required course readings up to the time of the exam. The second exam will cover the lecture and reading material between the first exam and the second. It will not be enough to concentrate either exclusively on the reading material or the lecture material. Students will need to have a good understanding of both to be successful. The exams will largely be multiple-choice, along with some short answer questions.
- 5) **Final exam:** 25%. The final exam will take place during the exam period, on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 2:45 pm to 4:45 pm. It will cover all the lecture and readings for the course, with an emphasis on the course content after the second mid-term. The exam will largely be multiple-choice. Some short answer questions will also be included. Students who miss the final exam cannot make it up unless their failure to take the exam was caused by a serious health problem or other fully documented and verifiable emergency.
- 6) **Participation** 10%. Attendance and overall participation in class.

Good writing is important: I appreciate good writing, and will reward those who demonstrate their ability to write well and concisely. Please remember that your papers should all include a clear thesis statement. If you are not a good writer, consider requesting support from the UW-Madison Writing Center for improving your writing skills.

### Grading

90-100	A
82-89	AB
74-81	B
66-73	BC
58-65	C
51-57	D
50 and below	F

### Conduct in Class

Students are encouraged to ask questions and make comments in Lecture. Being frank is fine, but it is also important that we are respectful of the views of others. Please put up your hand in you want to ask a question or make a comment, and I will try to get to you as soon as possible, without overly interrupting the flow of the lecture.

Students are not allowed to use laptop computers in class. The use of laptops in class to chat with friends, surf the web about non-class related topics, write e-mails, play computer cards

or chess, etc. can be very distracting for other students. Also, please do not engage in any cell phone text messaging or other electronic means of communication during class time.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students who plagiarize should beware, as the UW-Madison policy on plagiarizing will be strictly implemented during this course. Students are responsible for educating themselves on this. Plagiarizing can lead to serious consequences for students, including resulting in students receiving failing grades or other serious discipline. Cheating of all kind will not be tolerated. Students who are aware that other students are cheating are encouraged to report inappropriate actions. Anonymity can be assured, when appropriate.

### **Life Interruptions**

Students are expected to submit work at the times scheduled in the syllabus. Possible exceptions include serious illness, immediate family emergency, or other legitimate conflict. If these apply, you must contact me to request an extension or makeup. Make these arrangements as soon as you know of the conflict—**before** the due date if possible. Students who miss the final exam cannot make it up unless their failure to take the exam was caused by a serious health problem or other fully documented and verifiable emergency. All make-up exams will be essay exams.

### **Special Needs**

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me and the McBurney Resource Center located at 702 W. Johnson Street, Suite 2104 <http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu> , 608-263-2741 to discuss individual needs for accommodations.

## Course Schedule

1	Tuesday, January 19, 2016	<p>Course introduction</p> <p>Review syllabus, course objectives and content, course readings, assignments, etc.</p> <p>Beeson, Mark 2004. Introduction: National Differences and Regional Dynamics in Southeast Asia. Pages 1-14 in Mark Beeson (ed.), <i>Contemporary Southeast Asia. Regional Dynamics, National Differences</i>, Palgrave MacMillan, New York.</p>
2	Thursday, January 21, 2015	<p>Introduction to the Human Geography of Southeast Asia</p> <p>Review the countries in Southeast Asia and the recent human geography of the region.</p> <p>Reed, Robert R. 2000. Historical and cultural patterns. Pages 35-73 in Leinbach, T.R. and R. Ulack (eds.), <i>Southeast Asia: Diversity and Development</i>. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey.</p>
3	Tuesday, January 26, 2016	<p>Introduction to the Colonial and Post-Colonial History of Southeast Asia</p> <p>Elson, Robert 2004. Reinventing a Region: Southeast Asia and the Colonial Experience. Pages 15-29 in Mark Beeson (ed.), <i>Contemporary Southeast Asia. Regional Dynamics, National Differences</i>, Palgrave MacMillan, New York.</p> <p>Berger, Mark T. 2004. Decolonizing Southeast Asia: Nationalism, revolution and the Cold War. Page 30-49 in Mark Beeson (ed.), <i>Contemporary Southeast Asia. Regional Dynamics, National Differences</i>, Palgrave MacMillan, New York.</p> <p>Baird, Ian G. 2011. Questioning the precolonial, colonial and postcolonial in the context of the Brao in southern Laos and northeastern Cambodia. <i>ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographers</i> 10(1): 48-57.</p>
4	Thursday, January 28, 2016	<p>Imagined Communities</p> <p>Anderson, Benedict 2006. <i>Imagined Communities</i>. Verso.</p>
5	Tuesday, February 2	<p>Ethnic Groups and Boundaries</p> <p>Barth, Frederick 1969. Introduction. Pages 8-38 In Barth, Frederick (ed.), <i>Ethnic Groups and Boundaries: The Social Organization of Culture Difference</i>, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, pp. 9-38.</p> <p>Carsten, Janet 1998. Borders, boundaries, tradition and state on the Malaysian periphery. Pages 215-236 In Thomas M. Wilson and Hastings Donnan (eds.), <i>Border Identities: Nation and State at International Frontiers</i>. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.</p>

6	Thursday, February 4	<p>Rethinking Ethnicity</p> <p>Jenkins, Richard 1997. Chapters 1 and 6. Pages 3-87 in <i>Rethinking Ethnicity: Arguments and Explorations</i>. Sage Publications, London.</p>
7	Tuesday, February 9	<p>Contested Social Memory</p> <p>Fentress, James J. and Chris Wickham 1992. Introduction. Pages 1-40 in <i>Social Memory: New Perspectives on the Past</i>. Blackwell Publishers, Oxford.</p> <p>Baird, Ian G. 2007. Contested history, ethnicity and remembering the past: The case of the Ay Sa rebellion in southern Laos. <i>Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Southeast Asian Studies</i> 18(2): 119-159.</p>
8	Thursday, February 11	<p>Upland and Lowland Peoples in Southeast Asia</p> <p>Scott, James C. 2010. Hills, valleys, and states: An introduction to Zomia. Pages 1-39 in <i>The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia</i>. Yale University Press, New Haven.</p> <p>Jonsson, Hjorleifur 2012. Paths to freedom: Political prospecting in the ethnographic record. <i>Critique of Anthropology</i> 32(2): 158-172.</p> <p>Optional</p> <p>Baird, Ian G. 2013. Millenarian movements in southern Laos and northeastern Siam (Thailand) at the turn of the Twentieth Century: Reconsidering the involvement of the Champassak Royal House. <i>South East Asia Research</i> 21(2): 257-279.</p>
9	Tuesday, February 16	<p>Ethnic Groups and Policies in Laos</p> <p>Ovesen, Jan 2004. All Lao? Minorities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Pages 214-240 in Christopher Duncan (ed.), <i>Civilizing the Margins: Southeast Asian Government Policies for Development of Minorities</i>. Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London.</p> <p>Baird, Ian G. and Bruce P. Shoemaker 2007. Unsettling experiences: Internal resettlement and international aid agencies in the Lao PDR. <i>Development and Change</i> 38(5): 865-888.</p>
10	Thursday, February 18	<p>Ethnic Groups and Policies in Cambodia</p> <p>Baird, Ian G. 2011. The construction of 'indigenous peoples' in Cambodia. Pages 155-176 In: Leong Yew (ed.), <i>Alterities in Asia: Reflections on Identity and Regionalism</i>. Routledge, London.</p> <p>Swift, Peter 2013. Changing ethnic identities among the Kuy in Cambodia: Assimilation, reassertion, and the making of Indigenous identity. <i>Asia Pacific Viewpoint</i>.</p>

11	Tuesday, February 23	<p>Ethnic Groups and Policies in Thailand</p> <p>Thongchai Winichakul 2000. The others within: Travel and ethno-spatial differentiation of Siamese subjects 1885-1910." Pages 38-62 In Andrew Turton (ed.), <i>Civility and Savagery: Social Identity in Tai States</i>, Curzon, Richmond, Surrey.</p> <p>Gillogly, Kate 2004. "Hill Tribes" of northern Thailand. Pages 116-149 in Christopher Duncan (ed.), <i>Civilizing the Margins: Southeast Asian Government Policies for Development of Minorities</i>. Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London.</p> <p>Optional</p> <p>McCargo, Duncan and Krisadawan Hongladarom 2004. Contesting Isan-ness: Discourses of politics and identity in northeast Thailand. <i>Asian Ethnicity</i> 5(2): 219-234.</p>
12	Thursday, February 25	<p>Ethnic Groups and Policies in Vietnam</p> <p>McElwee, Pamela 2004. Becoming socialist or becoming Kinh? Government policies for ethnic minorities in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. Pages 182-213 in Christopher Duncan (ed.), <i>Civilizing the Margins: Southeast Asian Government Policies for Development of Minorities</i>. Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London.</p> <p>Schliesinger, Joachim 1998. Brau. Pages 48-51 in <i>Hill Tribes of Vietnam: Profile of the Existing Hill Tribe Groups</i> (Volume 2), White Lotus, Bangkok.</p>
13	Tuesday, March 1	<p>Ethnic Groups and Policies in Indonesia</p> <p>Duncan, Christopher 2004. From development to empowerment: Changing Indonesian government policies toward indigenous minorities. Pages 86-115 in Christopher Duncan (ed.), <i>Civilizing the Margins: Southeast Asian Government Policies for Development of Minorities</i>. Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London.</p> <p>Bamba, Jon 2008. In kind: Indonesia indigenous peoples and state legislation. Page 257-274 in <i>The Concept of Indigenous Peoples in Asia: A Resource Book</i>, Erni, Christian (ed.), IWGIA Document No. 123, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation (AIPP), Copenhagen and Chiang Mai.</p>
13	Thursday, March 3	<p>Ethnic Groups and Policies of Malaysia</p> <p>Andaya, Leonard 2000. Unraveling Minangkabau ethnicity. <i>Itinerario</i> 24(2): 20-43.</p>

		Endicott, Kirk and Robert Knox Dentan 2004. Into the mainstream or into the backwater? Malaysian assimilation of Orang Asli. Pages 24-55 in Christopher Duncan (ed.), <i>Civilizing the Margins: Southeast Asian Government Policies for Development of Minorities</i> . Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London.
14	Tuesday, March 8	<p>Racialization in Southeast Asia</p> <p>Vanderveest, Peter 2003. Racialization and citizenship in Thai forest politics. <i>Society and Natural Resources</i> 16: 19-37.</p> <p>Baird, Ian G. 2010. The Hmong come to southern Laos: Local responses and the creation of racialized boundaries. <i>Hmong Studies Journal</i> 11: 1-38.</p> <p>Paper 1 due</p>
15	Thursday, March 10	<p>Ethnic Groups and Policies in the Philippines</p> <p>Eder, James F. and Thomas M. McKenna 2004. Minorities in the Philippines: Ancestral lands and autonomy in theory and practice. Pages 56-85 in Christopher Duncan (ed.), <i>Civilizing the Margins: Southeast Asian Government Policies for Development of Minorities</i>. Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London.</p> <p>Majul, Cesar Adib 1988. Ethnicity and Islam in the Philippines. Pages 362-401 In Guidieri, Remo, Francesco Pellizzi, and Stanley J. Tambiah (eds), <i>Ethnicities and Nations: Processes of Interethnic Relations in Latin America, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific</i>. Rothco Chapel, Austin.</p>
16	Tuesday, March 15	<p>Ethnicity and Spatial Organization</p> <p>Tomforde, Maren 2006. <i>The Hmong Mountains: Cultural Spatiality of the Hmong of Northern Thailand</i>. Munster, London (chapter 1).</p> <p>Baird, Ian G. 2008. The case of the Brao: Revisiting physical borders, ethnic identities and spatial and social organisation in the hinterlands of southern Laos and northeastern Cambodia. Pages 595-620 In Goudineau, Yves and Michel Lorrillard (eds.), <i>Recherches Nouvelles sur le Laos</i>, Etudes thématiques No. 18, EFEO, Paris and Vientiane.</p> <p>Optional</p> <p>Baird, Ian G. 2013. The ethnoecology of the Kavet peoples in northeast Cambodia. Pages 155-186 In Mark Poffenberger (ed.), <i>Cambodia's Contested Forest Domain: The Role of Community Forestry in the New Millennium</i>. Ateneo de Manila University Press, Manila.</p>



17	Thursday, March 17	<p>Indigeneity in Southeast Asia</p> <p>Corntassel, Jeff J. 2008. Who is indigenous? “Peoplehood” and ethnonationalist approaches to rearticulating indigenous identity. Page 51-76 in <i>The Concept of Indigenous Peoples in Asia: A Resource Book</i>, Erni, Christian (ed.), IWGIA Document No. 123, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation (AIPP), Copenhagen and Chiang Mai.</p> <p>Li, Tania Murray 2002. Ethnic cleansing, recursive knowledge and the dilemmas of sedentarism. <i>International Social Science Journal</i> 54(3): 361-371.</p>
18	Tuesday, March 29	Mid-Term 2
19	Thursday, March 31	Film Viewing: “The Rocket”
20	Tuesday, April 5	<p>Lao People in Cambodia</p> <p>Baird, Ian G. 2016 (Forthcoming). Should ethnic Lao people be considered indigenous to Cambodia? Ethnicity, classification and the politics of indigeneity. <i>Asian Ethnicity</i>.</p> <p>Baird, Ian G. 2009. From Champasak to Cambodia: <i>Chao Thammatheva</i>, a wily and influential ethnic Lao leader. <i>Aséanie</i> 23: 31-62.</p>
21	Thursday, April 7	<p>Anti-Communist Insurgency in Laos</p> <p>Jonsson, Hjorleifur 2009. Wars ontogeny: Militias and ethnic boundaries in Laos and exile. <i>Southeast Asian Studies</i> 47(2):125-149.</p> <p>Baird, Ian G. 2013. The monks and the Hmong: The special relationship between the Chao Fa and the Tham Krabok Buddhist Temple in Saraburi Province, Thailand. Pages 120-151 In Vladimir Tikhonov and Torkel Brekke (eds.), <i>Violent Buddhism – Buddhism and Militarism in Asia in the Twentieth Century</i>. Routledge, London</p>
22	Tuesday, April 12	<p>Transnational Politics amongst the Hmong in the USA</p> <p>Vang, Nengher 2011. Political transmigrants: Rethinking Hmong political activism in America. <i>Hmong Studies Journal</i> 12: 1-46.</p> <p>Baird, Ian G. 2012. Lao Buddhist monks and their involvement in political and militant resistance to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic government since 1975. <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> 71(3): 655-677.</p>
23	Thursday, April 14	<p>Vietnamese and Lao Hmong in Thailand: A Spatial Approach</p> <p>Guest Speaker: David Chambers</p>

24	Tuesday, April 19	<p>Chinese in Southeast Asia</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Michael Cullinane</p> <p>Mackie, Jamie 1996. Introduction. Page xii to xxx in <i>Sojourners and Settlers: Histories of Southeast Asia and the Chinese</i>. Edited by Anthony Reid. University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu.</p> <p>Gungwu, Wang 1996. Sojourning: The Chinese experience in Southeast Asia. Pages 1-14 in <i>Sojourners and Settlers: Histories of Southeast Asia and the Chinese</i>. Edited by Anthony Reid. University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu.</p> <p>Optional</p> <p>Skinner, G. William 1996. Creolized Chinese Societies in Southeast Asia. Pages 51-93 In <i>Sojourners and Settlers: Histories of Southeast Asia and the Chinese</i>. Edited by Anthony Reid. University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu.</p>
25	Thursday, April 21	<p>The Chin in Myanmar (Burma)</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Peter Swift</p> <p>Welcome to Chinland, 2 pgs.</p> <p>2009. Unofficial Translation of CNF-Govt Agreements, Chinland Guardian, 4 pp.</p> <p>2013. Myanmar Peace Process, EBO Brief, January 2013, 4 pp.</p> <p>Thawng Zel Thang 2014. Ethnic Armed Groups United Toward Achieving Federal Union. Chinland Guardian, 25 January 2014, 6 pp.</p> <p>Piang 2013. Chapter 1. From Home to Refugee Camp. pg. 14-18; Chapter 5. Looking Back into the Past. pg. 31-37. Chapter 6. University Life in Burma, pg 38-40; Chapter 7. Life in Insein Prison, pg. 41-44; Chapter 8. Toward Hometown, pg. 44-47; Chapter 9. From Kachin State to Chin Land, pg. 47.</p>
26	Tuesday, April 26	<p>40 Years After the Fall of Saigon</p> <p>Gillen, Jamie 2015. Reflections on the Fortieth Anniversary of the End of the Vietnam War. <i>Geopolitics</i> (published online)</p> <p>Glassman, Jim 2015. The ‘Geography’ of Vietnam. <i>Geopolitics</i> (published online)</p> <p>Lentz, Christian 2015. Encountering Everyday Perspectives on the American War. <i>Geopolitics</i> (published online)</p> <p>Barnes, Trevor 2015. War by Numbers: Another Quantitative Revolution.</p>

		<p><i>Geopolitics</i> (published online)</p> <p>Tyner, James A. 2015. Radical Geography and the Legacy of the Khmer Rouge. <i>Geopolitics</i> (published online)</p> <p>Baird, Ian G. 2015. 1975: Rescaling our understanding of the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. <i>Geopolitics</i> (published online).</p> <p>Vue, Pao 2015. The Vietnam War and Its Impacts on the Hmong. <i>Geopolitics</i> (published online).</p> <p>Paper 2 due</p>
27	Thursday, April 28	Group Project Presentations
28	Tuesday, May 3	Group Project Presentations
29	Thursday, May 5	<p>Hmong and Lao Veterans Politics in the United States</p> <p>Baird, Ian G. and Paul Hillmer 2016 (In Preparation). Hmong and Lao veterans politics in the USA. To be submitted to journal.</p> <p>Group written project due</p>

\* Note that during the course it is possible that some of the lectures will have their dates changed, or contents altered. We will try to provide as much advance warning of changes as possible.