

**Nanyang Technological University  
History Division, School of Humanities  
HH2024 Course Outline**

<b>Academic Year</b>	2020-21	<b>Semester</b>	1
<b>Course Coordinator</b>	Faizah Zakaria (faizahz@ntu.edu.sg)		
<b>Course Code</b>	HH2024		
<b>Course Title</b>	History of the Malay World: Present Identities, Past Histories		
<b>Course Format</b>	Online, on Zoom, every Tuesday 9.30 am to 12.30 pm Final sessions may be in person depending on Covid-19 situation. Small group consultations with professor may be scheduled depending on Covid-19 situation.		

### **Course Aims**

In this course, you will examine and deconstruct the category 'Malay' as a lens into the broader processes of making and unmaking group identities in the maritime Southeast Asia region that historically used the Malay language as a trade *lingua franca*. You will conceptualize how Malay ethnic identity is an ongoing process and group boundaries develop with culturally specific markers along five major axes: economy, geography, political authority, religion and gender. As the course spans the pre-modern and modern periods, it will offer you an opportunity to compare and contrast how these processes change over time. Given the paucity of conventional documentary archives in accessing this history, you will develop new skills in interpreting alternative archives such as archaeological artifacts, the architecture of mosques and houses as well as literary manuscripts.

### **Intended Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Synthesize the broad arc of the history of the peoples who identify as "Malay" from earliest times to present and apply this knowledge to contemporary debates.
2. Compare and contrast how the Malay ethnic identity developed culturally specific markers in particular historical contexts during the pre-modern and modern period.
3. Identify what archives are used to write the history of the Malay world and analyze primary sources that are not in the form of written records.
4. Formulate and articulate a historical argument about the Malay world that also addresses broader theories of ethnicization.

### **Course Content**

This course examines the history of the Malay world, as defined by the trading zone that has historically utilized the language in the pre-modern period. It uses this history as a lens to understand the fluid processes of ethnicization, comparing the pre-modern period with the modern period. You will find the content of the course useful for conceptualizing the historical roots of contemporary Malay identity and also as a means of understanding the socio-political dynamics of Malay communities in Singapore and her closest neighbours. It will also be of helpful for you if you

would like to understand and apply scholarly framings of group identity formation more broadly in other contexts.

### Planned Weekly Schedule

Week	Topic	Readings/ Activities
1 Aug 11, 2020	Introduction - Conceptualizing Ethnicity and <i>Malayu</i> in the Pre-modern Period	Readings:  Rogers Brubaker and Frederick Cooper, "Beyond Identity," <i>Theory and Society</i> , 29, pp. 1-27.  Leonard Andaya, <i>Leaves of the Same Tree: Trade and Ethnicity in the Straits of Malacca</i> , (University of Hawai'i Press, 2008), pp. 1-81  Activities: Lecture; seminar discussion on History of the Malay World in 10 objects.
2 Aug 18, 2020	Economy: Malays and Maritime Trade	Readings: O.W. Wolters, "Studying Srivijaya," <i>Journal of the Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society</i> , 52:2 (1979): pp. 1-32  Anthony Reid, <i>Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce, 1450-1680</i> , (Yale University Press, 1988), pp. 1-10; 62-119  Kwa Chong Guan, Tan Tai Yong and Derek Heng, <i>Singapore: A 700 Year History: From Early Emporium to World City</i> (National Archives of Singapore, 2008), pp. 53-110  Activities: Map Quiz, History of Early Malay World in one object response paper – looking through online museum exhibition.
3 Aug 19, 2020	<i>Hulu and Hilir</i> : Coastal Malays and Interior Peoples	Readings: Leonard Andaya, "The Orang Asli/Suku Terasing and the Malayu," in <i>Leaves of the Same Tree: Trade and Ethnicity in the Straits of Malacca</i> , (University of Hawai'i Press, 2008), pp. 202-240  Sandra Manickam, "The Making of Aboriginal Races," in <i>Taming the Wild: Aborigines and Racial Knowledge in Colonial Malaya</i> , (NUS Press, 2016), pp. 1-42  Activities: Seminar discussion; what does 'indigenous' mean in a pre-modern context?; How to approach primary source analysis assignment – Raden Saleh's painting and National Gallery catalogues

<p>4</p> <p>Aug 25, 2020</p>	<p>Political Authority: Kings and The <i>Kerajaan</i></p>	<p>Readings:</p> <p>Anthony Milner, "The Ceremonial Raja," in <i>Kerajaan: Malay Political Culture on the Eve of Colonial Rule</i>, (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1982), pp. 53-94</p> <p>Benedict Anderson, "The Idea of Power in Javanese Culture," in <i>Language and Power: Exploring Political Cultures in Indonesia</i> (Cornell University Press, 2006), pp. 17-77</p> <p>Clifford Geertz, <i>Negara: The Theatre State in Nineteenth Century Bali</i>, (Princeton University Press, 1980), pp. 3-25</p> <p>Activities: Seminar discussion; Using <i>hikayats</i> as sources with digitized manuscripts from the National Library Board.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Sep 7, 2020</p>	<p>Islam in the Malay World</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <p>Imran Tajudeen, "Mosques and Minarets: Trans-regional Connections in Eighteenth-Century Southeast Asia," <i>Journal 18: A Journal of Eighteenth Century Art and Culture</i>, 4:1 (2017), available online: <a href="http://www.journal18.org/2056">http://www.journal18.org/2056</a></p> <p>Francis R. Bradley, <i>Forging Islamic Power and Place: The Legacy of Shaykh Daud Abd'Allah al Fatani in Mecca and Southeast Asia</i>, (University of Hawai'i Press, 2015), pp. 151-209</p> <p>Activities: Mosque Photography; seminar discussion on alternative archives for Southeast Asian Islam - architecture and Sufi texts</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Sept 14, 2020</p>	<p>Gendering the Malay World</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <p>Sher Banu L. Khan, <i>Sovereign Women in a Muslim Kingdom: The Sultanahs of Aceh, 1641-1699</i>, (Cornell University Press, 2017), pp. 1-26; 171-209</p> <p>Sharyn Graham, "'It's like one of those puzzles': Conceptualizing Gender Among Bugis," <i>Journal of Gender Studies</i>, 13:2 (2004), pp. 107-116</p> <p>Activities: Seminar discussion; group time; Malay seals as a source.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Modern Modes of Racialization and Ethnicization</p>	<p>Readings:</p>

Sep 21, 2020		<p>Anthony Reid, "Understanding <i>Melayu</i> as a Source of Diverse Modern Identities," in Tim Barnard (ed.), <i>Contesting Malayness: Malay Identity Across Boundaries</i>, (NUS Press, 2004), pp. 1-24</p> <p>Fenneke Sysling, <i>Racial Science and Human Diversity in Colonial Indonesia</i>, (NUS Press, 2016) pp. 1-24; 73-100</p> <p>Activities: Seminar discussion; just-in-time consultation for primary source assignment.</p>
<b>TERM BREAK: 28 Sept to 2 Oct</b>		
8  6 Oct, 2020	Economy: Capitalism and Finance in the Malay World	<p>Readings:</p> <p>Robert Elson, <i>Javanese Peasants and the Colonial Sugar Industry: Impact and Change in an East Java Residency, 1830-1840</i>, (Oxford University Press, 1984), pp. 151-199</p> <p>Clifford Geertz, <i>Agricultural Involution: The Processes of Ecological Change in Indonesia</i>, (University of California Press, 1966), pp. 47-123</p> <p>Patricia Sloane-White, "The Ethnography of Failure: Middle-Class Malays Producing Capitalism in an 'Asian Miracle' Economy," <i>Journal of Southeast Asian Studies</i>, 39:3, (2008), pp. 455-482</p> <p>Activities: Seminar discussion; using economic datasets as a primary source</p>
9  13 Oct, 2020	<i>Hulu and Hilir</i> : Rural, Urban and Dislocated Malays	<p>Rusaslina Idrus, "Malays and Orang Asli: Contesting Indigeneity," in Khairudin Aljunied and Maznah Muhammad (eds), <i>Melayu: Politics, Poetics and Paradoxes of Malayness</i>, (NUS Press, 2012), pp. 101-123</p> <p>Tania Murray Li, <i>Land's End: Capitalist Relations on an Indigenous Frontier</i>, (Duke University Press, 2014), pp. 30-57</p> <p>Muhammad Arafat Mohamed, "Memories of Collective Victimhood and Conflict in Southern Thailand," <i>Journal of Southeast Asian Studies</i>, 49:2, (2018) pp. 204-226</p> <p>Activities: Seminar discussion; short films - <a href="#">Fighting Forest Faiths</a> and <a href="#">Fatoni in My Memory</a> ; submit proposal for historiographic essay.</p>

10 20 Oct, 2020	Political Authority - Malay Nationalism	<p>Readings:</p> <p>William Roff, <i>Origins of Malay Nationalism</i>, (Yale University Press, 1967), pp. 56-90</p> <p>Donna Amaroso, <i>Traditionalism and the Ascendancy of the Malay Ruling Class in Colonial Malaya</i>, (NUS Press, 2014), pp. 135-210</p> <p>Activities: Seminar discussion; peer and instructor feedback on proposal for historiographic essay.</p>
11 27 Oct, 2020	Modernist Islam in the Malay World	<p>Readings:</p> <p>Suzanne Brenner, "Reconstructing Self and Society: Javanese Muslim Women and 'the Veil.'" <i>American Ethnologist</i>, 23:4, (1996), pp. 673-697</p> <p>Ronald James May, "The Religious Factor in Three Minority Movements: The Moro of the Philippines, the Malays of Thailand and Indonesia's West Papuans," <i>Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs</i>, 12:2, (1991), pp. 307-320</p> <p>Daromir Rudnycky, "From Wall Street to Halal Street: Malaysia and the Globalization of Islamic Finance," <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i>, 72:4 (2013), pp. 831-848</p> <p>Activities: Seminar discussion; briefing on group presentation assignment</p>
12 3 Nov, 2020	Gendering the Modern Malay World	<p>Readings:</p> <p>Jeffrey Hadler, <i>Muslims and Matriarchs: Cultural Resilience in Minangkabau through Jihad and Colonialism</i>, (Cornell University Press, 2010), pp. 1-16; 58-86</p> <p>Dede Oetomo, "Gender and Sexual Orientation in Indonesia," in Laurie Sears (ed.), <i>Fantasizing the Feminine in Indonesia</i>, (Duke University Press, 1996), pp. 259-269</p> <p>Geraldine Heng and Janadas Devan, "State Fatherhood: The Politics of Nationalism, Sexuality and Race in Singapore," in Andrew Parker ed., <i>Nationalisms and Sexualities</i>, (New York: Routledge, 1992), 343-364</p>

		Activities: Seminar discussion; workshopping a draft of the historiographical essay
13 17 Nov, 2020	The Contemporary Malay Identity	<p>Readings:</p> <p>Khairudin Aljunied, "Malay Identity in Postcolonial Singapore," in Khairudin Aljunied and Maznah Muhammad (eds), <i>Melayu: Politics, Poetics and Paradoxes of Malayness</i>, (NUS Press, 2012), pp. 145-167</p> <p>Shamsul A.B., "A History of an Identity, An Identity of a History: The Idea and Practice of Malayness in Malaysia Reconsidered," in Tim Barnard (ed.), <i>Contesting Malayness: Malay Identity Across Boundaries</i>, (NUS Press, 2004), pp. 135-48</p> <p>Activities: Group presentations on Malay Identity in Singapore 2017 Presidential Elections due. Presented through online forum.</p> <p>Session may be conducted at the Malay Heritage Center, if pandemic situation has abated.</p>

## Course Assessment

### **Assessment Component 1: Class Participation (25%)**

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

In class, you will learn from each other and build up your skills in close reading, constructing convincing arguments, articulating these arguments verbally and analyzing primary sources. You are expected to regularly attend class and participation in class will be assessed along these dimensions:

- (a) Depth, frequency and quality of your contributions to classroom discussion
- (b) An in-class presentation of an assigned reading, where you will identify the argument in the assigned reading and how the author makes it, the background and context to the argument made and evaluate the significance of the reading to our understanding of the history of the Malay World.
- (c) Short quizzes and responses periodically assigned in class.

### **Assessment Component 2: Primary Source Analysis (25%)**

#### **Deadline: Friday, 25 Sept 2020**

Primary source analysis is a key skill that is required for historical research. In this course, we will be focusing on unconventional, non-documentary sources and how it can be used to access histories of Malay peoples who left few written records. In this short essay, you will practice working with sources that you have encountered in our tutorial sessions Weeks 2-6.

You are required to choose ONE primary source from the list of primary sources that we will generate in our tutorial: Malay manuscripts, Malay seals, Trade artifacts, Malay paintings and Malay mosque architecture. Write an essay on your chosen primary source, which addresses the following question: 'How can we 'read' this artifact/building/text and utilize it to challenge or support the existing historiography on the pre-modern Malay World?'

In order to answer this question, you will need to pay close attention to the material details of the source and research on the historical context in which it was produced. You may need to visit the source again outside class. You will then need to synthesize the key themes and arguments in the scholarship about the pre-modern Malay world that we have covered in class and identify where this particular source can help shed new light in the historiography. Your essay should not only address the source's use but also its limitations. You will submit one individual essay about 1000 words long on Week 6.

### **Assessment Component 3: Online Group presentation (20%)**

**Deadline: 25 Sept 2020**

In the final session of the class, we will apply the history that we have learned to a contemporary debate on the Malay identity in Singapore. In 2017, Singapore held a presidential election that was reserved only for Malay candidates. Public debate ensued about how we can define "Malay" and which candidate qualifies under that label. In this assignment, you will use your understanding of the Malay world to weigh in on the debate in an informed manner.

You will be broken up into groups and each group will be assigned one person that had put himself/herself forward as a candidate for President for this election. The group will then research on the background of this candidate, the discourse on mainstream and social media debate his/her "Malay-ness" and the ways in which the Eligibility Committee during the election defined the category "Malay." During the final session of the class, each group will then present an argument on whether their assigned candidate can be categorized as Malay. The criteria for defining Malay need NOT align with the official definition - indeed, your argument will be strengthened if it includes a fresh definition of Malay that utilizes and builds on the history of how this term has been employed.

*\*To do well on the team assessment, it is necessary for you to demonstrate positive interdependence and teamwork. In principle, you will receive the same marks as your team. However, your individual score may vary based on feedback about your contributions to the group project.*

### **Assessment Component 4: Research Essay (30%)**

**Deadline: Monday, Nov 23, 2020**

This research essay should be a polished piece of writing that demonstrates not only the mastery of the course material but also your skills in research and critical analysis. It should include interpretation of at least two primary sources.

This assignment will enable you to evaluate and critique the existing research on the Malay World that you have learned in this class while making a creative contribution of your own. An excellent essay will utilize original sources and position its argument in relation to different approaches to the broader study of ethnicization that you have encountered throughout this course.

The length of this essay should be around 3000 words.

Working through the following stages will help you develop your research essay so that it will be a contribution to existing historiography.

- (i) Identify a research question. This question should address one of the major issues that we have discussed in class. Explain why this question is important to the existing debates in the field.
- (ii) Define the scope of the essay in terms of time period, thematic focus and geographical area of the Malay world that you are examining.
- (iii) Collect and list a set of sources that could help you answer your research question. This should include at least 7 relevant secondary source readings and two primary sources.

Submit a research proposal addressing (i) to (iii) by Week 9 in the course. This proposal should be around 500 words, excluding citations. It will not be assessed for a grade but you will receive feedback and suggestions on improvement.

The final version of this essay will be due on the last week of class. The essay question you have developed should appear at the beginning of the first page of the essay. Please use the Chicago referencing style (outlined in the Course Style Guide). 3-10% will be deducted for incorrect referencing style.