

Course name: Archaeology of Cambodia: Landscape, Settlement & the Demise of Angkor

Course code: HH4090 (Special Topics in History – Global Asia)

Schedule: Thursdays, 9:30-13:30

Instructor: Dr. David Brotherson **Email:** david.brotherson@ntu.edu.sg

Course Description

This course provides an overview of Cambodian archaeology, dealing with over 3000 years of Khmer culture, with a focus on the rise, daily life and demise of its medieval capital Angkor. The syllabus deals with three main subjects in a general chronology: the development of archaeology as a discipline, the evolution of Cambodian urbanism until the early modern period, and the history and state of research at Angkor. Themes include the limitations of text-based narratives; change and continuity in Khmer society; social-ecological dynamics; and demise, transformation and resilience.

Learning Objectives

Students will be familiar with the broad outlines of Cambodian history until the early modern period, have a general understanding of Khmer culture, and will develop a capacity for critical thinking. By analysis of recent research, consideration of the historical context of conventional narratives, and by scrutinizing the divergence between materiality and textual sources, students will be able to relate the themes and issues within Khmer studies that are relevant to the broader disciplines of history, archaeology and cultural anthropology.

Readings

PDFs of weekly reading material will be provided by the instructor.

Assessment criteria

- a. Class participation and presentation (10%)
- b. An annotated bibliography (25%)
- c. Mid-term test in Week 7 (25%)
- d. A 4,000-word research paper (40%)

Course Requirements

Participation: You should attend all classes and complete the assigned reading material each week prior to class.

Annotated bibliography: Prepare an annotated bibliography (200-300 words each) on 10 articles written in the last 20 years.

Mid-term test: A combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions.

Research paper: Complete a 3000-word research paper drawing on material from lessons, reading material and your own research. You will choose your own topic through consultation with your instructor.

Weekly Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading
1	Introduction, concepts in archaeology, course overview	
2	History of Archaeology	Fagan & Durrani 2016: Ch 01
3	Settlement Archaeology	Parsons 1972 Groslier 1985-86 Fletcher 2009
4	Prehistoric Southeast Asia	Stark 2004: p89-101 Higham 2017 Heng 2014 Higham 2015 White 2015
5	Early States & Urbanism	Stark 2007 Carter & Kim 2017
6	Uncovering Angkor: Monuments, Art & Epigraphy	Chapman 2018 Jacques 2002 Pottier 2000
7	Beyond the Monuments	Moore 1986-87 Groslier 1979 [2007]
8	Angkor: Environment, Ecology & Economy	Buckley et al 2014 Hendrickson 2011 Brotherson 2019: Ch 02
9	Angkor: Domestic life, Infrastructure & Settlement Pattern	Brotherson 2019: Ch 03 Brotherson n.d. warfare Stark et al 2018 Ang 1988
10	Demise & Transformation	Brotherson 2015 Brotherson n.d. water management
11	Cambodia after Angkor	Thompson 1997 Chandler 2008: Ch 5 Polkinghorne 2018 Sato 2017 Brotherson n.d. thesis summary
12	Present Day Issues with the Past	Clement 2002 Chandler 2006 Anderson 2007
13	Course Conclusion	