



## **HH2025 The World of Southeast Asia to 1600**

[Lecture: 26 hours; Tutorials: 13 hours; Pre-requisites: nil; Academic Unit: 3.0]

Lecture: Monday, 09:30-11:30

Venue: HSS Seminar Room 9

Tutorials: Monday, 12:30-13:30, 13:30-14:30

Venue: S3.2 SR4 SOUTH, S3.2-B3-04

Instructor: Assoc Prof Goh Geok Yian

Email: [gygoh@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:gygoh@ntu.edu.sg)

Office: HSS-05-09\*

Office hours: 3-4:30PM (Monday), the better option is to arrange a meeting by appointment

\*I am usually in my ACR office, so it would be best if you make an appointment via email before coming to see me.

### **Learning Objective**

To provide students with an understanding of:

- a) major themes pertaining to the study of ancient Southeast Asia until 1600.
- b) the theoretical issues and works representing ancient Southeast Asian scholarship
- c) new directions and approaches in the study of ancient Southeast Asia
- d) the place of ancient Southeast Asia in its artistic, archaeological and historical context and in global history.

### **Content**

This course examines the relationship between art, archaeology, and history in ancient Southeast Asia. This course spans the period from prehistory until 1600 which marks the approximate point when Southeast Asian polities and cultures began to change as a result of the forces of early colonialism. The course readings cover conventional themes in Southeast Asian ancient history. Topics include “Indianization” (or Sanskritization as some scholars prefer to term it) in

connection with Hindu and Buddhist concepts of kingship, processes of urbanization and state formation, networks of communications and trade, and their impact on the development of intellectual ideas, religious practices, art and architecture; and comparisons between the ideas of earlier Southeast Asian historians and new perspectives. This course will end with new data from the field by archaeologists and other scholars. There will also be discussions about whether the data support or refute established notions of the Southeast Asian past.

### Course Textbook

Miksic, John and Goh Geok Yian. *Ancient Southeast Asia*. London and New York: Routledge, 2016.

### Course Outline

S/N	Topic
1	<p><b>January 15</b>  <b><i>Introduction: Historiography of Ancient Southeast Asia</i></b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u>  Miksic and Goh. <i>Ancient Southeast Asia</i>. Chapter 1 Introduction.</p> <p>Benda, H.J. (1962) "The structure of Southeast Asian history: some preliminary observations", <i>Journal of Southeast Asian History</i> 3: 106-138.</p> <p><u>Supplementary readings:</u> some of these will be provided on NTUlearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.</p>
2	<p><b>January 22</b>  <b><i>Southeast Asian Prehistory</i></b></p> <p><u>Readings</u>  Miksic and Goh. <i>Ancient Southeast Asia</i>. Chapter 3. Prehistory: Two million to 2,000 years ago</p> <p>Higham, C. (2011) "The prehistory of Southeast Asia: a retrospective view of 40 years research", <i>Antiquity</i> 85: 639-53</p> <p><u>Supplementary readings:</u> some of these will be provided on NTUlearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.</p>
3	<p><b>January 29</b>  <b><i>Early Southeast Asian Urbanization: Protoclassic</i></b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u>  Miksic and Goh. <i>Ancient Southeast Asia</i>. Chapter 4. Protoclassic: 1 to 600 CE.</p> <p>Miksic, John N. (2000). "Heterogenetic Cities in Premodern Southeast Asia,"</p>

	<p><i>World Archaeology</i> (London) 32, 1 (June 2000): 106-120.</p> <p><u>Supplementary readings:</u> some of these will be provided on NTUlearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.</p>
4	<p><b>**February 5: no class as I will be away for a conference</b></p> <p><b>February 12</b>  <b><i>State Formation and Early Models of Statecraft: Early Classic Period</i></b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u>  Miksic and Goh. <i>Ancient Southeast Asia</i>. Chapter 5. Early Classic: 600 to 900 CE.</p> <p>Coe, M. (1961) "Social typology and the tropical forest civilizations", <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i> 4 (1): 65-85.</p> <p><u>Supplementary readings:</u> some of these will be provided on NTUlearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.</p>
5	<p><b>February 19</b>  <b><i>Middle Classic Period</i></b></p> <p><u>Reading:</u>  Miksic and Goh. <i>Ancient Southeast Asia</i>. Chapter 6. The Middle Classic: 900 to 1200 CE.</p> <p><u>Supplementary readings:</u> some of these will be provided on NTUlearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.</p>
6	<p><b>February 26</b>  <b><i>Late Classic Period</i></b></p> <p><u>Reading:</u>  Miksic and Goh. <i>Ancient Southeast Asia</i>. Chapter 7. Late Classic: 1200 to 1400 CE</p> <p>Buckley, B.M., Anchukaitis, K.J., Penny, D., Fletcher, R., Cook, E.R., Sano, M., Nam, L.C., Wichienkeo, A., Minh, T.T., &amp; Hong T.M. (2010) Climate as a Contributing Factor in the Demise of Angkor, Cambodia. <i>Online Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America</i>.  <a href="http://www.pnas.org/content/107/15/6748.full">www.pnas.org/content/107/15/6748.full</a></p> <p><u>Supplementary readings:</u> some of these will be provided on NTUlearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.</p>

<b>RECESS WEEK</b>	
7	<p><b>March 12</b> <b><i>Trade and Society: South China Sea</i></b></p> <p><u>Readings</u>            Diem, A. (2011) “The significance of ceramic evidence for assessing contacts between Vijaya and other Southeast Asian polities in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries CE.”, in Tran K. P. &amp; B. Lockhart (eds) <i>The Cham of Vietnam: History, Society and Art</i>. NUS Press: Singapore.</p> <p>Flecker, M. (2001). “The Bakau wreck: an early example of Chinese shipping in Southeast Asia”, <i>International Journal of Nautical Archaeology</i> 30(2): 221-230</p> <p>Hung H. -C., Dung N. K., Bellwood, P. &amp; Carson, M. (2013) “Coastal connectivity: long term trading networks across the South China Sea”, <i>Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology</i> 8 (3): 384-404.</p> <p>Manguin, P.-Y. (2004) “The archaeology of early maritime polities of Southeast Asia”, in I. Glover &amp; P. Bellwood (eds) <i>Southeast Asia: From Prehistory to History</i>. RoutledgeCurzon: New York.</p> <p><u>Supplementary readings:</u> some of these will be provided on NTUlearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.</p>
8	<p><b>March 19</b> <b><i>Trade and Society: Indian Ocean</i></b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u>            Flecker, M. (2001) “A ninth century AD Arab or Indian shipwreck in Indonesia: first evidence for direct trade with China”, <i>World Archaeology</i> 32 (3): 335-354.</p> <p>Glover, Ian. (1996) “Recent archaeological evidence for early maritime contacts between India and Southeast Asia”, in H. P. Ray &amp; J.-F. Salles (eds) <i>Tradition and Archaeology: Early Maritime Contacts in the Indian Ocean</i>, Manohar: New Delhi.</p> <p>Hoogervorst, Tom. (2013), “If Only Plants Could Talk...: Reconstructing Pre-Modern Biological Translocations in the Indian Ocean,” in S. Chandra and H.P. Ray (eds.) <i>The Sea, Identity and History: From the Bay of Bengal to the South China Sea</i>. Singapore: ISEAS Press and Manohar, pp. 67-92.</p> <p>Karashima, N. (2009) “Medieval commercial activities in the Indian Ocean as revealed from Chinese ceramic-sherds and South Indian and Sri Lanka inscriptions”, in H. Kulke, K. Kesavapany, &amp; V. Sakhuja (eds) <i>Nagapattinam to Suvarnadwipa: Reflections on the Chola Naval Expeditions to Southeast Asia</i>. Institute of Southeast Asian Studies: Singapore.</p>

	<p><u>Supplementary readings:</u> some of these will be provided on NTUlearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.</p>
9	<p><b>March 26</b>  <b><i>Religion and Transformation: Hinduism and Mahayana</i></b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u>  Le T.L. (2014) “Hindu-Buddhist sculpture in southern Vietnam: evolution of icons and styles to the eighth century”, in J. Guy et al (eds.). <i>Lost Kingdoms: Hindu-Buddhist Sculpture of Early Southeast Asia</i>. Metropolitan Museum of Art: New York</p> <p>Miksic, J.N. “Buddhism in Sumatra and Its External Relations.” In Leelananda Prematilleke, Pisit Charoenwongsa, Kalpakam Sankarnarayan, and Timbul Haryono, Editors. <i>Abhinandanamala. Supplementum</i>. Bangkok and Colombo: The Abhinandanamala Committee, 2010. PP. 147-165.</p> <p>Pollock, Sheldon. “The Cosmopolitan Vernacular,” <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> 57, 1 (1998): 6-37.</p> <p>Woodward, H.W. Jr. (2004) “Esoteric Buddhism in Southeast Asia in the light of recent scholarship”, <i>Journal of Southeast Asian Studies</i> 35(2): 329 -354.</p> <p><u>Supplementary readings:</u> some of these will be provided on NTUlearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.</p>
10	<p><b>April 2</b>  <b><i>Religion and Transformation: Theravada Buddhism</i></b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u>  Goh Geok Yian. (2015). <i>The Wheel-Turner and His House: Kingship in a Buddhist Ecumene</i>. Dekalb: Northern Illinois University Press. “Chapter One: The Genesis of the King”, pp. 17-41.</p> <p>Revire, N. (2014) “Glimpses of Buddhist practices and rituals in Dvāravatī and in neighbouring cultures”, in N. Revire &amp; S. A. Murphy (eds) <i>Before Siam: Essays in Art and Archaeology</i>. River Books/The Siam Society: Bangkok.</p> <p>Skilling, P. (2007) “King sangha and brahmans: ideology, ritual and power in premodern Siam”, in I. Harris (ed.) <i>Buddhism, Power and Political Order</i>. Routledge: London-New York.</p> <p>Volker, G. (2007) “Buddhism, Power and Political Order in Pre-Twentieth Century Laos”, in I. Harris (ed.) <i>Buddhism, Power and Political Order</i>. Routledge: London-New York.</p>

	<p><u>Supplementary readings:</u> some of these will be provided on NTUlearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.</p>
11	<p><b>April 9</b>  <b><i>Religion and Transformation: Advent of Islam in the Island World</i></b></p> <p><u>Reading:</u>  Miksic and Goh. <i>Ancient Southeast Asia</i>. Chapter 8. Post Classic: 1400 to 1600 CE</p> <p><u>Supplementary readings:</u> some of these will be provided on NTUlearn for students who are interested in reading further on the subject.</p>

### **Learning Outcome**

Students will gain a complete understanding of the art, archaeology, and history of ancient Southeast Asia from the earliest times to 1600.

### **Student Assessment (100% Continuous Assessment)**

Based on the objectives of the course, the use of 100% continuous assessment is most appropriate to evaluate the learning outcomes.

Students will be assessed by:

- a. Short Paper Responses (24%)  
Students are required to submit three (3) short paper responses (600 words each) during the semester. The topics for these response papers will be given in class: two in the first half and one in the second half. Students are expected to utilize relevant course readings to write these response papers. Responses are due one week later. Students must upload their responses to course website's Turnitin folder by **23.09**.
- b. Group Presentations (30%)  
Students are expected to take turns to present readings to the class in groups of maximum three persons. Students will present and lead discussions during these presentations; each student group is expected to complete a total of three(3) presentations. Students will sign up for these presentation groups on NTUlearn course website. Each presentation should not exceed 15 minutes (5 minutes per presenter). The sign-up list will be made available on NTUlearn during the second week of the official teaching semester (first week of tutorial meetings).
- c. Participation in class discussions (10%)  
Students are expected to participate in class discussions and any activities conducted within the classroom.
- d. Research Paper (36%)

Students are required to submit a final research paper of 3,000 words, exclusive of citations and bibliography. The topic of this paper must be related to one or several themes examined in this course. The **deadline** for the paper is: **April 9, 23:09**.

## References

- a. Aung-Thwin, Michael. *The Mists of Rāmañña: The Legend That Was Lower Burma*. Honolulu, Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 2005.
- b. Bellwood, Peter. *Prehistory of the Indo-Malaysian Archipelago*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1997.
- c. Bellwood, Peter, James Fox and Darrell Tyron (eds.) *The Austronesians: historical and comparative perspectives*. Canberra: Department of Anthropology, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University, 1995.
- d. Cummings, William. *Making Blood White: Historical Transformations in Early Modern Makassar*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2002.
- e. Glover, Ian and Peter Bellwood (eds.). *Southeast Asia: from prehistory to history*. New York: RoutledgeCurzon, 2004.
- f. Gommans, Jos and Jacques Leider. (eds.) *The Maritime Frontiers of Burma: Exploring Political, Cultural, and Commercial Interaction in the Indian Ocean World, 1200-1800*. Leiden: Koninklijke Nederlands Akademie van Wetenschappen, 2002.
- g. Goh Geok Yian. *The Wheel-Turner and His House: Kingship in a Buddhist Ecumene*. Dekalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2015.
- h. Higham, Charles. *The Civilization of Angkor*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 2001.
- i. Johns, A.H. "Sufism in Southeast Asia," *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 26, 1 (March 1995): 169-83.
- j. Lieberman, Victor. *Strange Parallels: Southeast Asia in Global Context, c. 800-1830*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- k. Miksic, John. *Singapore and the Silk Road of the Sea: 1300-1800*. Singapore: NUS Press, 2013.
- l. Miksic, John and Goh Geok Yian. *Ancient Southeast Asia*. London; New York: Routledge, 2016.
- m. Ngaosrivathana, Mayoury and Kennon Breazeale (eds.) *Breaking New Ground in Lao History: Essays on the Seventh to Twentieth Centuries*. Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2002. Chapters 1-4.
- n. Oppenheimer, Stephen. *Eden in the East*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1998.
- o. Pollock, Sheldon. "The Cosmopolitan Vernacular," *Journal of Asian Studies* 57, 1 (1998): 6-37.
- p. Reid, Anthony and David Marr. (eds.) *Perceptions of the Past in Southeast Asia*. Singapore: Heinemann Educational Books (Asia) Ltd, 1979.
- q. Reynolds, Craig. "New Look at Old Southeast Asia," *Journal of Asian Studies* 54, 2 (May 1995): 419-446.
- r. Wheatley, Paul. *Nagara and Commandery: Origins of the Southeast Asian Urban Traditions*. Chicago: University of Chicago, Geography Department Research Papers 207-208, 1983.
- s. Wolters, Oliver W. *History, Culture, and Region in Southeast Asian Perspectives*. Second edition. Ithaca/Singapore: Cornell Southeast Asia Program/Institute for Southeast Asian Studies, 1999.

- t. Woodward, Hiram. *The Art and Architecture of Thailand: from Prehistoric Times through the Thirteenth Century*. Leiden; Boston: Brill, 2005.

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE**