

Southeast Asian Studies (SEASIAN)

Courses

SEASIAN R5A Self, Representation, and Nation 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

This course is devoted to a study of selected literary texts set in various regions of Southeast Asia. The readings will include works by foreign authors who lived and traveled in Southeast Asia and translations of works by Southeast Asian writers. These texts will be used to make comparisons and observations with which to characterize coloniality, nationalism, and postcoloniality. This course satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Satisfaction of the Entry Level Writing Requirement

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 10 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: South and Southeast Asian Studies R5A

SEASIAN R5B Under Western Eyes 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

In this course, the student will read selections from the large body of scholarly texts that have been written about Southeast Asia. Expository and argumentative essays by premier scholars such as Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, Margaret Mead, Clifford Geertz, and Benedict Anderson will be examined. Discussions will cover a broad range of theoretical issues including power, gender, and space. This course satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Previously passed an R_A course with a letter grade of C- or better. Previously passed an articulated R_A course with a letter grade of C- or better. Score a 4 on the Advanced Placement Exam in English Literature and Composition. Score a 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement Exam in English Language and Composition. Score of 5, 6, or 7 on the International Baccalaureate Higher Level Examination in English

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Alternative to final exam.

Formerly known as: South and Southeast Asian Studies R5B

SEASIAN 101A Introduction to the History, Religion, and Culture of Mainland Southeast Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course is a survey of the histories, cultures, and religions of mainland Southeast Asia from the period of the early Khmer empire until the 2000s. It surveys the countries of Cambodia, Myanmar/Burma, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. By the end of the course, students are expected to: (a) explain the broad patterns of historical change in mainland Southeast Asia from the 10th century to the present, (b) explain the major cultural shifts and religious formations that have shaped mainland Southeast Asia over the past thousand-plus years, (c) discuss cultural texts that reflect the history of mainland Southeast Asia, and (d) explain mainland Southeast Asia's shifting relations with the world over the longue durée.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for SEASIAN 101A after completing SEASIAN 10A.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

SEASIAN 101B Introduction to the History, Religion, and Culture of Insular Southeast Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024

This course is a survey of the histories, cultures, and religions of insular Southeast Asia from the early modern period until the 2000s. It surveys the countries of Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, East Timor, and Singapore. By the end of the course, students are expected to: (a) explain the broad patterns of historical change in insular Southeast Asia from the early modern period to the present, (b) explain the major cultural shifts and religious formations that have shaped insular Southeast Asia over the period covered, (c) discuss cultural texts that reflect the history of insular Southeast Asia, and (d) explain insular Southeast Asia's shifting relations with the world over the longue durée.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for SEASIAN 101B after completing SEASIAN 10B.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

SEASIAN 121 Visual Culture and the Environment in Southeast Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

The eleven nation-states that comprise the region of Southeast Asia are defined by their linguistic, cultural, economic, and sociopolitical diversity. One facet that plays a crucial role in binding this region is its environment. In order to explore both how the natural world has shaped the history of Southeast Asia and how the human relationship to the environment has changed over time, this course takes as its focus an examination of how "nature" or the environment in Southeast Asia has been and is being represented through various forms of visual culture. Each week we will focus our inquiry on a different theme including: the history of Hindu/Buddhist temple architecture and the arrival of Islam and its impact on visual representation.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Bruhn

SEASIAN 128 Introduction to Modern Indonesian and Malaysian Literature in Translation 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2014, Fall 2011, Fall 2009

This course will examine the role of contemporary literature in Indonesian/Malaysian society. Emphasis on the socio-political aspects of this literature in historical context. Genres discussed will include poetry, the novel, the short story, and drama.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

SEASIAN 129 Mainland Southeast Asian Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2020

Readings and lectures focus on Thailand, Vietnam and Burma; Cambodian and Laotian materials as available. After brief attention to the influence of oral tradition, classical poetry, and dance drama, emphasis will be on modern novels, short stories, film, and television in their cultural/historical context.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division standing or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

SEASIAN 130 Articulations of the Female in Indonesia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2016, Spring 2014, Fall 2012

This course examines the impact of the history of literacy and literature upon the ways in which perceptions and roles of women are constructed and reinforced in a developing non-Western society. Course material includes literature, oral and manuscript narratives, ritual performance.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Tiwon

SEASIAN 137 Islam and Society in Southeast Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2016

This undergraduate seminar will be an investigation into key discourses on Islam in Southeast Asia, focusing on history, literature, and culture. We will trace the processes through which Islam entered the Malay world in the 13th century, and explore the European colonial encounters with Islam in Southeast Asia and the ways that Islam interacted with and resisted colonialism. We will discuss the role of mysticism and of reformists and will also explore the struggles of Islam as a minority religion in the Philippines and Thailand. Readings will include primary sources in translation, literary texts, ethnographic works, and writings by colonial and local scholars.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Hadler

SEASIAN 138 Southeast Asian Cultures, Texts, and Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2010, Fall 2008, Fall 2006

This seminar will focus on the late colonial and national periods in Southeast Asia. Through literary and political texts as well as classical anthropological sources, we will explore different approaches to reading and analyzing Southeast Asian source material. There will be extensive readings of works of fiction and primary source material in translation, as well as occasional screenings of films. We will tackle broader themes and theoretical approaches to Southeast Asian sources and literatures and will discuss different approaches to reading modern Southeast Asian texts. The course is open to advanced undergraduates and graduate students.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Southeast Asian 10B or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Instructor: Hadler

SEASIAN 148 Philippines: History, Literature, Performance 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2021 First 6 Week Session, Spring 2021, Summer 2020 First 6 Week Session

The course focuses on Philippine history through literature and performance. Among the texts to be discussed are: traditional forms (rituals, poetry, songs, dances) that give insights to belief systems and economic, political, and social life during the indigenous or precolonial period; performance and literary forms that were instruments both of colonial conquest and anti-colonial movements; and theater and literature that participated in discourse on agrarian issues, labor, martial law and militarism, gender rights, academic freedom, and human rights.

Objectives & Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to answer the following questions: what are the romantic, realist and radical conventions in Philippine literature and theater? How did literature and theater document significant events in Philippine history? How was literature instrumental in the shaping of history?

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students who have passed S,SEASN 148 do not get credit for SEASIAN 148.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Barrios-Leblanc

Formerly known as: South and Southeast Asian Studies 148

SEASIAN 150 Southeast Asian Mythology 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2021

An introduction to the mythologies of Southeast Asia, providing a comparative overview of key myths. We will focus on indigenous narrative traditions encompassing myths of creation and origin, agricultural and maritime myths and practices, the founding of kingdoms, and indigenous geographies. We will further explore the role of myth in the contemporary world.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students who have passed S,SEASN 150 do not get credit for SEASIAN 150.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Formerly known as: South and Southeast Asian Studies 150

SEASIAN 152 Filipino Mythology 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2020 First 6 Week Session, Summer 2019 Second 6 Week Session

We will be reading Philippine myths, legends, indigenous poetry and epics. This includes traditional narrative forms such as the alamat (legends) and the kuwentong-bayan (folktales) and poetic forms such as the ambahan, diona, and tanaga. Among the questions the course explores are: How can we understand the way of life and belief systems of the ethnolinguistic groups of the Philippines through their literatures? How do the dynamics between orality and literacy come into play in these Filipino literary texts?

How have traditional forms been revitalized and transformed by writers to articulate contemporary concerns such as poverty, land reform, women's issues, and human rights?

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 10 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Barrios

SEASIAN 154 Philippines: Narratives of Tradition and Resistance 6 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 10 Week Session, Summer 2024 10 Week Session, Summer 2023 10 Week Session

The course brings students on a research trip to the Philippines to learn through interviews and interactions with Filipino people, selected lectures by the Philippines' leading scholars and interactive activities with the Philippines' artists and writers.

Hours & Format

Summer: 5 weeks - 6 hours of lecture, 8 hours of discussion, and 13 hours of fieldwork per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Barrios

SEASIAN 160 Philippine Cultural Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2021 First 6 Week Session, Summer 2020 First 6 Week Session, Summer 2019 First 6 Week Session

Can a song inspire a revolution? The course focuses on literary, visual, and performance texts that participated in political discourses in the Philippines. What strategies did the writers and artists employ? How did writers and artists face issues of censorship and persecution? How did social movements influence these texts, and in turn, how did these texts contribute to these social movements?

Objectives & Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes: At the end of the course, students should have: gained knowledge on the dynamics between politics and culture in the Philippines; interrogated strategies used by writers and artists to participate in discourses on social change; demonstrated critical thinking through class discussions, weekly papers, and research paper as they analyze the texts presented; demonstrated research skills through their final paper.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students who have passed S,SEASN 160 do not get credit for SEASIAN 160.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Barrios-Leblanc

Formerly known as: South and Southeast Asian Studies 160

SEASIAN 162 Philippine Cuisine Narratives: Sinigang Stories 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2021 First 6 Week Session

Have you tasted sinigang, lumpia, adobo, or for the adventurous, even balut? This seminar course focuses on Philippine cuisine and literary works that use Filipino food as inspiration, theme, or metaphor. Each class uses a particular dish, cooking method, or Filipino ingredient as a starting point in the discussion of Philippine literature, culture, and history. Each lesson has several components: a literary text, recipe/s, a participative class activity and an essay(s) that will help the students to have a better understanding of Philippine society.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructors: Aban, Llagas

SEASIAN C164 DUTCH C164 The Indonesian Connection: Dutch (Post)colonial History and Culture in Southeast Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2018, Spring 2014

This course deals with the Dutch colonial history of Indonesia, the former Dutch East Indies. After studying the importance of the East India Company in Southeast Asia and the history of Indonesia under colonial rule, we analyze a number of works in Dutch literature and film with a focus on post-colonialism and interculturality. This course intends to give an opportunity to those who do not have a command of Dutch language, but wish to complete their knowledge of Southeast-Asian history and culture. All materials will be in English, no knowledge of Dutch is required.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: DUTCH C164

SEASIAN 165 Introduction to the History and Culture of the Philippines 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course is a cultural history of the Philippines, from the birth of the nation in the nineteenth century to the present. It outlines the major events in Philippine history through cultural texts that reflect the salient attitudes and ideas of key periods. Not only will this course cover canonical works, it will also examine popular texts. Expect to discuss everything from anti-colonial novels, Tagalog garage rock, third world brutalism, Manila disco, power ballads, protest songs, romantic comedies, to contemporary crime dramas.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Claudio

SEASIAN 166 Southeast Asian Life Writing: Biography and the History of the Everyday 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020

This course uses biographies to narrate the history of modern Southeast Asia. It will not only examine prominent individuals who have shaped history, but also ordinary lives that reflect this history. This course will also investigate life writing as a non-fiction genre. For the final requirement, students will write a short biography of a Southeast Asian of their choice.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructors: Claudio, Lisandro

SEASIAN 167 Contemporary Popular Cultures of the Philippines 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

This course is an overview of Philippine culture from the mid-twentieth century until present, with an emphasis on film, pop music, television, popular journalism, and food cultures. It examines the evolution of Philippine culture in light of broadcast and digital media.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Claudio

SEASIAN 168AC US Imperialism in the Philippines 4 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

This course considers a period in American and Philippine history when the two countries were formally intertwined through law and violence. It begins with the Philippine-American War of 1898 and ends at the start of the postwar Philippine Republic in 1946. The Philippines is the only former formal colony of the US. Yet its history is understudied, mainly because it is inconvenient to think of the US as a European-style colonial power. This course's primary goal is to help write the colonialism of the Philippines back into US history.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

SEASIAN 170 Narratives of Vietnam and Vietnamese Diaspora 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025

Together we will read and view a variety of stories—told primarily in the form of prose fiction, poetry, essays, films and other visual art—by Vietnamese and overseas Vietnamese writers and artists who explore the consequences of colonialism, war, migration and resettlement for individuals, families and communities using vastly different aesthetic techniques and registering multiple social, cultural, political and personal concerns. We will attend especially to the ways in which war and postwar generation artists and writers define and refine what it means to be Vietnamese and diasporic Vietnamese in changing local, regional and global contexts, and how the past and present continue to be intertwined in our lives and narratives.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

3 weeks - 15 hours of lecture per week

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

SEASIAN 175 Chinese Diaspora in Southeast Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2021

This seminar will explore the cultural, economic, social, political and religious history of the Chinese diaspora in 19 to 21 century Southeast Asia. Our focus is the shifting contexts of migration, representation and strategies of cultural identification/survival. We will explore colonial and nationalist projects, both in Southeast Asia and in China, to categorize “Overseas” Chinese through policies of taxation, and examine cultural flows, the role of religious and educational and associations and institutions, print and cinematic media, and material culture. Our primary focus countries are Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Edwards

SEASIAN 188 Southeast Asian Cinema: History, Memory, Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2021

This Upper Division, seminar-style class introduces students to the modern history and politics of Southeast Asia, from the 1940s to the 2010s, through the lens of cinema and the frame of memory. From American B-Movies to Japanese anti-war features, media monarchs to Indie film-makers, spectral spouses to exorcist monks, Cambodian Claymation to Indonesia film noir, we explore cinema as a vehicle of propaganda, remembrance, experimentation, repression, expression and resistance – but most of all, as a theater of memory.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Edwards

SEASIAN 190 Love Craft: Epic Romance of Southeast Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022

This course offers an advanced introduction to the literary history, cultural norms, poetic forms and textual traditions of 17 th to 19 th century Southeast Asia through a comparative study of three epic poems: Tum Teav (Cambodia), Khun Chang Khun Phaen (Thailand), and Tale of Kieu (Vietnam). We will explore the dynamics of desire and transgression, duty and sacrifice, kinship and kingship, and the interplay between folk, court, Buddhist, Confucian, and Hindu values. Finally, we will consider the contemporary currency and iconic status of these works in Southeast Asia and in diaspora; what makes a national canon, and why these epic tales of love, loss and war, remain strangers to the west.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Southeast Asian/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Edwards