

City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

offered by Department of Asian and International Studies
with effect from Semester B 2015/16

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Special Topics in Asian and International Studies:

Course Code: AIS5041

Course Duration: One semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites: (Course Code and Title) N/A

Precursors: (Course Code and Title) N/A

Equivalent Courses: (Course Code and Title) N/A

Exclusive Courses: (Course Code and Title) N/A

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

How do we understand culture and power in Buddhist Southeast Asian societies? What are the enduring arrangements of power and belief that distinguish these societies, and how have these arrangements been changed by processes of globalization, modernization and development? To help answer these questions, this course examines Buddhist Southeast Asia from the perspective of its peoples. We will discuss a range of themes, such as religion, the role of women, supernaturalism, politics, health, and violence. Moreover, we will read scholarship in history, religious studies, and anthropology in order to introduce students to debates on culture and power in Southeast Asia, particularly in the context of the study of religion, with the aim of inculcating comparative and critical reflections on cultural formations in the region.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Show an awareness of the history, and present day developments, of Southeast Asia, both at the level of the main actors and collectively as a subregion.	20%	✓		
2.	Critically analyse and interpret selected religious texts, beliefs, rituals, practices, and organizations using sociological theories, concepts, and methods to demonstrate knowledge of the intersections between religion and selected contemporary issues, including ethical, social, political, economic, and cultural issues.	20%	✓	✓	
3.	Develop an appreciation of culture and power as important categories of analysis in the humanities and social sciences, especially in the context of Southeast Asian Studies.	20%	✓		
4	Gain a solid introduction to the interconnected histories of religious and political culture in mainland Southeast Asia, and to promote a critical understanding of their sophistication and complexity.	20%	✓	✓	
5	Demonstrate knowledge of the various ways that religious communities are organized, and be able to evaluate how organizational structures affect religious life.	20%	✓	✓	✓
			100%		

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong

sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.					Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	5	
1	Reading assignments: The students will actively engage in the reading material.	√	√	√	√		
2	In-class discussions: Students engage in debates and explorations	√	√	√	√	√	
3	Research: students use relevant materials to write a series of short papers.	√	√	√	√	√	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.					Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4	5		
Continuous Assessment: 100 %							
Attendance	√	√				10%	
Class Presentations and Group Work	√	√	√	√	√	30%	
3 short papers		√	√	√	√	30%	
Final quiz	√	√	√	√	√	30%	
Examination: 0 % (duration: , if applicable)						100%	

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Adequate (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Term paper (100%)	Writing of an argumentative research paper	The paper makes a very good innovative argument in a clear and systematic structure with sufficient evidence.	The paper makes a good innovative argument in a relatively clear and systematic structure with evidence.	The paper makes an adequate argument with some structure.	The paper attempts to makes an argument and shows some knowledge.	The paper fails to make an argument, has no structure, and provides inadequate evidence.

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Asian Studies; Southeast Asia; Religious Studies; History; Anthropology; Gender Studies; Buddhism

As this is intended as an umbrella course, it has no fixed syllabus of its own. The syllabus of each intensive seminar offered under this course will be decided by the visiting staff and/or the programme leader and outlined in the course manual. For record purposes, the keyword syllabus of every intensive course will be included in future Appendix-As to this Form, while the course outline and recommended readings will be included in future Appendix.