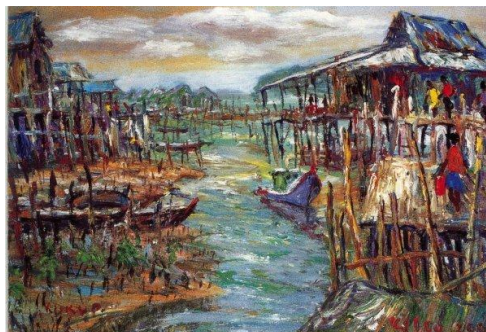


ARLT 100g
Southeast Asian Literature & Film:
Postcolonial Perspectives
Fall Semester, 2011
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30-1:55
Von KleinSmid 154



Professor: Brian Bernards (Ph.D.), bernards@usc.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays, 10-12 or by appointment, Taper 356P

Course Website: Log on using your USC account at www.blackboard.usc.edu

Course Description:

Whether or not we are aware, Southeast Asia is present in our everyday lives: the peoples, cultures, products, and cuisines of Southeast Asia have traveled the world for centuries, and are now integral to many metropolitan centers, including our own city of Los Angeles. Like Los Angeles, the nations that compose Southeast Asia are themselves dynamically multicultural and multilingual. It was Southeast Asia's diverse, abundant, and coveted resources that first lured European and other colonists to this tropical region. These often traumatic and violent colonial encounters produced the borders of the Southeast Asian nations that we see on the map today.

In addition to familiarizing students with the modern histories of several Southeast Asian nations (Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Myanmar), this course offers a general introduction to literary and cinematic production in postcolonial Southeast Asia, emphasizing themes of colonialism, nationalism, and multiculturalism. Why literature and film? By examining these creative forms of cultural production, we resist objectifying Southeast Asia by focusing on ways in which Southeast Asian voices represent and narrate themselves, their communities, their nations, and their histories. Furthermore, several of the stories we read and the films we watch are about marginalized ethnic minorities in Southeast Asia. These "non-standard" perspectives reflect on issues of language, nation, and culture in ways that are both imaginative and illuminating. *To enroll in this class, no prior knowledge of Southeast Asian history, cultures, or languages is assumed or required. All readings are either in English translation or English original. All films are subtitled in English.*

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, you will hopefully:

- 1) Be able to articulate the unique ways in which works of Southeast Asian literature and film interact with their colonial and postcolonial historical contexts.
- 2) Be able to critically discuss the relationship between issues of colonialism, nationalism, and multiculturalism based on their literary and cinematic representation.
- 3) Understand how to write a paper of close literary and film analysis that is built around a coherent argument, solid thesis statement, and critical and substantive interpretation.

Required Texts (available at the USC Pertusati Bookstore):

- Course Reader (contents listed below as "CR")

- Pramodya Ananta Toer, *This Earth of Mankind* (Trans. Max Lane, New York: Penguin, 1996)
- Zhang Guixing, *My South Seas Sleeping Beauty: A Tale of Memory and Longing* (Trans. Valerie Jaffee, New York: Columbia University Press, 2007)
- Duong Thu Huong, *Paradise of the Blind* (Trans. Phan Huy Duong and Nina McPherson, New York: Perennial, 1993)
- Pascal Khoo Thwe, *From the Land of Green Ghosts: A Burmese Odyssey* (London: Harper Perennial, 2002)

Films (DVDs available for viewing on 3-4-hr reserve at Leavey Library Circulation):

- *Max Havelaar* (The Netherlands/Indonesia: dir. Fons Rademakers, 1976)
- *Dekada '70* (The Philippines: dir. Chito Roño, 2002)
- *My Magic* (Singapore: dir. Eric Khoo, 2008) [DVD bundled with *No Day Off*, 2006]
- *I Don't Want to Sleep Alone* (Malaysia/Taiwan: dir. Tsai Ming-liang, 2006)
- *The Traveling Circus* (Vietnam: dir. Viet Linh, 1988)
- *Salween* (Thailand: dir. Chatrichalerm Yukol, 1993)

Film Screenings:

It is highly recommended that students attend the six Friday film screenings throughout the semester. The dates are: 9/2, 9/23, 10/7, 10/14, 11/4, 11/18. *The screenings will begin at 2pm in Von KleinSmid 101.* If you are unable to attend the screenings, it is mandatory that you watch the films on your own *before* we discuss them in class. You can check the DVDs out from the Leavey Library reserves for up to 3 hours (4 hours for *Max Havelaar*). If you do so, you will need to watch the film in the library. Some of the titles are available for rent through Netflix, and others are available for purchase (but some are hard to find) through various websites.

Recommended Reference (available for 2-hr reserve at Leavey Library Circulation):

- Mary Somers Heidhues, *Southeast Asia: A Concise History* (London: Thames & Hudson, 2000)

Student Requirements & Grading:

- 1) **Weekly Preparation & Seminar Participation (15%).** This course is one-third lecture, two-thirds discussion seminar. A seminar is defined largely by the active participation of students. The level of engagement, quality of questions, and amount of enthusiasm you bring will directly impact everyone's success and enjoyment of the course. I will do my part to create an environment that fosters the open and inclusive sharing of ideas, thoughts, and questions. As a member of the seminar, you must come to each class session on time and ready to demonstrate that you have prepared by thorough completing the readings and watching the films. Students are expected to contribute thoughtful comments, raise critical questions, actively listen, and engage the other members of the seminar in discussion. I have prepared a list of discussion questions for each session that will enable you to more efficiently approach each week's readings and films (students may access these questions through the course website). *You need to complete the specified reading or film prior to attending the session in which they will be discussed.* See course schedule below for details.

- 2) **Six (6) Discussion Board Posts on the Course Website (3% each – 18 % total): Three (3) Reading Posts and Three (3) Film Posts.** At least six times during the semester, prior to our seminar discussion of a particular reading or film, students should post initial responses of at least 300 words to the discussion board on Blackboard. These responses will help get our ideas flowing before the discussion. The form of the post is flexible: students may raise questions about specific aspects of the film or reading, directly address one of the discussion questions provided by the instructor, relate the current week's reading or film to previous ones, or more loosely address how the reading or film relates to our course themes of colonialism, nationalism, and multiculturalism. *Students may post at any time during the semester and on any text as long as we have not yet discussed that reading or film in class. Posts must be made by 10am on the day the film or reading will be discussed in class.* See course schedule below for details.
- 3) **Two (2) Papers: One (1) Literary Analysis, One (1) Film Analysis (15% each – 30% total).** These papers, of 4-5 pages in length each (double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman Font), will closely examine one film and one work of literature with respect to one or more of the course themes. Each paper should be well-organized (with clear introductory and concluding paragraphs) around a solid thesis statement that addresses how the theme you have selected is depicted in the text. Your literary analysis should highlight key passages in the text by citing quotes or paraphrasing important events in the narrative. Your film analysis should refer to specific scenes and address such aspects of the film as style, cinematography, and soundtrack as well as narrative and plot. *Stapled, hard-copies of both papers should also have a title and are due Sept. 29 and Nov. 10.*
- 4) **Take-home Midterm (15%).** At the end of class on Tuesday, October 11, I will distribute a take-home midterm consisting of four (4) mini-essay questions. Students will choose to respond to two (2) of the questions and write a short 1-2 page essay for each. *The mid-term must be submitted on Blackboard by 11am on Thursday, October 13.*
- 5) **Final Examination, Tuesday, December 13, 11-1 (22%).** The final examination will consist of three parts: a map (10%), identifications (20%), and short answers (70%). Students must bring one (1) blank examination booklet (which may be purchased from the USC Bookstore). A full study guide of all the possible test questions will be made available for review on Nov. 22.

A = 94% and above	B = 83-86%	C = 72-75%	D = 61-64%
A- = 90-93%	B- = 80-82%	C- = 69-71%	D- = 60%
B+ = 87-89%	C+ = 76-79%	D+ = 65-68%	F = below 60%

Student Resources:

- **Academic Honesty.** All academic work for this course must meet USC's standards for academic honesty. Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work (see http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct/grad_ai.htm). Students turning in any written assignment or exam that is not entirely of his or her own creation will be reported to the Office of the Dean. For tips on how to avoid plagiarism, see http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct/ug_plag.htm. On how to cite sources and construct a Works Cited page using the proper format, see http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch08_o.html.
- **The Writing Center.** Taper 321: <http://dornsife.usc.edu/writingcenter/>

Course Schedule

I. MAPPING POSTCOLONIAL SOUTHEAST ASIA

Weeks 1-2: Course Overview

Tuesday, August 23

Course introduction: outline of syllabus (including attached map) and course themes.
Please introduce yourselves.

Thursday, August 25

Overview of Southeast Asian Geography & History: see Week 1 Lecture Notes (all lecture notes available from course website).

Tuesday, August 30

Reading discussion (please access course website for discussion questions):

Donald Emmerson, “‘Southeast Asia’: What’s in a Name?” [1984]

(Download from www.jstor.org using a USC VPN client or campus computer)

Paul Brians, “‘Postcolonial Literature’: Problems with the Term” [1998]

(Read online at <http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/anglophone/postcolonial.html>)

II. COLONIALISM & NATIONHOOD

Weeks 2-3: Indonesia

Thursday, September 1

Preliminary Discussion: see Weeks 2-3 Discussion Questions.
Overview of Indonesian History: see Week 2 Lecture Notes.
Background on *Max Havelaar* and Pramoedya Ananta Toer.

Friday, September 2

Recommended Film Screening (VKC 101, 2pm): *Max Havelaar* [170 mins.]

Tuesday, September 6

Film Discussion:

Max Havelaar [dir. Fons Rademakers, 1976]

Thursday, September 8

Reading Discussion:

Pramoedya Ananta Toer, *This Earth of Mankind* [*Bumi Manusia*, 1979]

Weeks 4-6: The Philippines

Tuesday, September 13

Preliminary discussion: see Weeks 3-4 Discussion Questions.

Thursday, September 15

Overview of Filipino History: see Week 3 Lecture Notes.

Background on Nick Joaquin and *Dekada '70*.

Tuesday, September 20

Reading Discussion:

Nick Joaquín, “Doña Jerónima” [1965] and “The Woman Who Had Two Navels” [1961] (CR)

Handout of 2 sample student papers.

Thursday, September 22

In-class workshop: discuss paper writing strategies and identifying thesis statements.

Friday, September 23

Recommended Film Screening (VKC 101, 2pm): *Dekada '70* [135 mins.]

Tuesday, September 29

Film Discussion:

Dekada '70 [dir. Chito Roño, 2002]

III. MIGRANT, SETTLER, & INDIGENOUS RELATIONS**Weeks 6-8: Singapore****Thursday, September 29** (*First paper due*)

Preliminary Discussion: see Weeks 6-8 Discussion Questions.

Overview of Singaporean History: see Week 6 Lecture Notes.

Background on Singaporean authors and film director Eric Khoo.

Tuesday, October 4

Reading Discussion:

Rama Kannabiran இராம கண்ணபிரான், “Losses” [இழப்புகள், 1978] (CR)

Mohamed Latiff Mohamed, “The Loss” [Kehilangan, 1982] (CR)

Yeng Pway Ngon 英培安, “Wrongly Delivered Mail” [寄錯的郵件, 1979] (CR)

Gopal Baratham, “A Personal History of an Island” [1995]

Thursday, October 6

In-class Film Screening: *No Day Off* [39 mins.]

Discuss procedures for take-home midterm.

Friday, October 7

Recommended Film Screening (VKC 101, 2pm): *My Magic* [75 mins.]

Tuesday, October 11

Film Discussion:

No Day Off [dir. Eric Khoo, 2006] and *My Magic* [dir. Eric Khoo, 2008]
Distribution of take-home midterm.

Weeks 8-10: Malaysia

Thursday, October 13 (*Take-home midterm due*)

Preliminary Discussion, Part I: see Weeks 8-10 Discussion Questions.

Overview of Malaysian History: see Week 8 Lecture Notes.

Background on Tsai Ming-liang.

Friday, October 14

Recommended Film Screening (VKC 101, 2pm): *I Don't Want to Sleep Alone* [118 mins.]

Tuesday, October 18

Film Discussion:

I Don't Want to Sleep Alone 黑眼圈 [dir. Tsai Ming-liang 蔡明亮, 2006]

Return first papers and discuss.

Thursday, October 20

Preliminary Discussion, Part II: see Weeks 8-10 Discussion Questions.

Overview of Borneo History: see Week 9 Lecture Notes.

Background on Zhang Guixing.

Tuesday, October 25

Reading Discussion:

Zhang Guixing 張貴興, *My South Seas Sleeping Beauty*

[我思念的長眠中的南國公主, 2001]

IV. CENTRALIZED STATES, MULTICULTURAL FRONTIERS

Weeks 10-12: Vietnam

Thursday, October 27

Preliminary Discussion: see Weeks 10-12 Discussion Questions.

Return midterms and discuss.

Tuesday, November 1

Overview of Vietnamese History: see Week 10 Lecture Notes.

Background on *Paradise of the Blind* and *The Traveling Circus*.

Discuss second paper.

Thursday, November 3

Reading Discussion:

Dương Thu Hương, *Paradise of the Blind* [*Những thiên đường mù*, 1988]

Friday, November 4

Recommended Film Screening (VKC 101, 2pm): *The Traveling Circus* [74 mins.]

Tuesday, November 8

Film Discussion:

The Traveling Circus [*Gánh xiếc rong*, dir. Việt Linh [1988]

Weeks 12-14: Thailand

Thursday, November 10 (*Second paper due*)

Preliminary Discussion: see Weeks 12-14 Discussion Questions.

Tuesday, November 15

Overview of Thai History: see Week 13 Lecture Notes.

Background on Thai authors.

Thursday, November 17

Reading Discussion:

Kampon Boontawee คำพูน บุญทวี, *A Child of the Northeast* [ลูกอีสาน, 1976]
(download chapters 1 and 23 from course website)

Samruam Sing สำรวม สิงห์, “The Necklace” [กำไลคอ, 1979] (CR)

Prathip Chumphon ประทีป ชุมพล, “Water and Earth” [ผืนน้ำและแผ่นดิน, 1979] (CR)

Friday, November 18

Recommended Film Screening (VKC 101, 2pm): *Salween* [129 mins.]

Tuesday, November 22

Film Discussion:

Salween **สาละวิน** [dir. Chatrichalerm Yukol ชาตรีเฉลิม ยุคล, 1993]

Distribution of Final Examination Review Guide.

Thursday, November 24

Thanksgiving Holiday (no class).

Week 15: Myanmar (Burma)

Tuesday, November 29

Preliminary Discussion: see Week 15 Discussion Questions.

Overview of Burmese History: see Week 15 Lecture Notes.

Background on Pascal Khoo Thwe.

Thursday, December 1

Reading Discussion:

Pascal Khoo Thwe, *From the Land of Green Ghosts: A Burmese Odyssey* [2002]

(Foreword, Prologue, Chapters 1, 2, 5, 9, 11, 14, 15, 16, 18, 23, 25, 27, 29)

Also refer to the “Synopsis and Plot Development” on the course website.

Finals Week

Tuesday, December 13

Final Examination, 11am-1pm, VKC 154

Enjoy your holiday!