

## **Graduate Seminar: Southeast Asian Culture and Society**

**東南亞社會與文化**

**Friday 2:20-5:20 PM**

**地點: 人社院 c304 研究室**

**Instructor: Dr. Brendan A. Galipeau, 助理教授 Assistant Professor**

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**Office Hours: Friday 1-2:00 PM, or by appointment**

**研究室: 人社院 C617 室**

**電話: 03-5715131 #42820**

### **Course Description:**

This is a graduate seminar dedicated to the exploration of classic and contemporary ethnographic texts about Southeast Asian societies. Designed for graduate students whose area focus is Southeast Asia, or whose theoretical concerns merit a close reading of key texts on the syllabus, the course will engage with canonical work, such as the writings of Clifford Geertz, Edmund Leach, James C. Scott, Benedict Anderson, Anna Tsing, and others, as well as with emerging voices in Southeast Asian studies such as Erik Harms and Andrew Johnson. The course is particularly well suited to students in Anthropology and Asian Studies interested in writing ethnographically about the region, and in gaining a sense for the particularities of Southeast Asia through intimate ethnographic narratives. Students will engage not only with the theoretical insights advanced by core texts, but also with the relationship between ethnographic research and the production of “theory”, and with questions of tone, voice and style in ethnographic writing. Finally, the course provides students with the opportunity to write their own theoretical and/or ethnographic texts, and will include writing workshops for course participants.

The course will follow a seminar format of in-class discussions in conjunction with assigned readings. Readings should be completed *before* the unit in which they are listed. It's crucial to keep up on readings, since they form the basis of the core concepts of this course, and since you will be asked to take part in and lead in-class discussions on the readings each week.

### **Course Outcomes and Skills:**

Upon completing this course students should be able to:

- Identify and describe various theoretical perspectives and ethnographic particularities found in Southeast Asian ethnography;
- Participate in in-class discussions and debates about the current “state of the field” in Southeast Asian Anthropology
- Produce a 15-20 page ethnographic research paper on a topic related to Southeast Asian Ethnography and Anthropology

**For any books below with Chinese translations, you are welcome to read the Chinese version!**

**Required Texts:**

Anderson, Benedict ROG. 1991. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. Second Edition. London: Verso. (Chinese Translation Available)

Dove, Michael R. 2011. *The Banana Tree at the Gate: A History of Marginal Peoples and Global Markets in Borneo*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Harms, Erik. 2011. *Saigon's Edge: On the Margins of Ho Chi Minh City*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Johnson, Andrew Alan. 2014. *Ghosts of the New City: Spirits, Urbanity, and the Ruins of Progress in Chiang Mai*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Lansing, Stephen J. 2012. *Perfect Order: Recognizing Complexity in Bali*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Leach, Edmund. 1954. *Political Systems of Highland Burma: A Study of Kachin Social Structure*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. (Chinese Translation Available)

Scott, James C. 1987. *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance*. New Haven: Yale University Press. (Chinese Translation Available)

Scott, James C. 2009. *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*. New Haven: Yale University Press. (Chinese Translation Available)

Tsing, Anna. 2005. *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Turner, Sarah, Christine Bonnin, and Jean Michaud. 2015. *Frontier Livelihoods: Hmong in the Sino-Vietnamese Borderlands*. Seattle: University of Washington Press.

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

Grade items for the class include the following:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Points</i>
Attendance and Participation	Attendance in course meetings and active participation in discussions	20%
Discussion Leadership and Online Postings	Leadership of discussion 2-4 times during the semester and posting of discussion reader response and discussion questions online	20%
Final Paper	Final 10-15 page double-spaced paper on topic chosen in consultation with instructor with a presentation given to class mates during the last week of class.	60% (50 points for paper, 10 for presentation)
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

**Participation and Attendance:** You will be allowed two excused absences that won't affect your grade. After two missed courses points will be deducted for each class session missed without prior approval or due to documented emergency. This is a seminar, so all students are required to regularly attend class and have completed the assigned readings ahead of time. Participation in class discussion is also a critical component of the course. Please be present, involved, and engage. When you are reading and preparing for our weekly session, you should be preparing your own thoughts as notes to bring to share with the class. Each week some students will be assigned to prepare a brief response with questions which they will post online beforehand and lead discussion in class (see below).

**Discussion Leadership and Online Discussion Board Requirements:** Each class one or two students will be assigned to lead our discussion. On the first day of class I will hand out a sign-up sheet and the post the schedule on the online course page. On the day you are assigned to lead discussion you should prepare the following, together with your co-discussion leader if applicable: The night before class please each post your 1-2 page 1.5 spaced response to the readings in which you lay out the author(s)'s main arguments and ideas and then provide your own critical analyses on these arguments. In addition, please also each prepare 2-4 questions about the readings and also link them with other readings from throughout the course if you so desire to facilitate our discussion the next day.

**Final Paper:** The primary assignments for this course will be a research paper on a subject of your choosing related to the course. Please consult with me before the end of Week 3 to finalize and confirm your topic. Papers should be anywhere between 15-20 double-spaced pages in length and should bridge between the course topics and your own areas of interest or ideally allow you to work on one of your own dissertation or thesis chapters. Twice through the semester we will engage in writing workshops to discuss and provide feedback on people's papers. During the last week of class everyone will also give a 15-20 minute presentation on their final papers.

**Grading Scale:**

The class is not graded on a curve. The following grading scale will be used:

<b>Percent</b>	<b>Grade</b>
95-100	A
90-94	A-
86-89	B+
83-85	B
80-82	B-
76-79	C+
73-75	C
70-72	C-
66-69	D+
63-65	D
60-62	D-
<60	F

**Class Schedule:**

Due dates for graded items are marked with **yellow highlights** below.

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>READINGS/FILMS/ASSIGNMENTS</b>
1	09/13 – Mid-Autumn, Festival, no class	
2	09/20 – Introduction and course overview	
3	09/27	Leach, Edmund. 1954. <i>Political Systems of Highland Burma: A Study of Kachin Social Structure</i> . Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
4	10/04	Scott, James C. 1987. <i>Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance</i> . New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapters 1-4.  <b>Deadline for consultation for final project topic</b>
5	10/11 – Holiday, Double Tenth Day, make-up session to be scheduled	Scott, James C. 1987. <i>Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance</i> . New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapters 5-8.
6	10/18	Scott, James C. 2009. <i>The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia</i> . New Haven: Yale

		University Press. Chapters 1-5.
7	10/25	Scott, James C. 2009. <i>The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia</i> . New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapters 6-9.
8	11/01	Anderson, Benedict ROG. 1991. <i>Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism</i> . Second Edition. London: Verso.
9	11/08	Tsing, Anna. 2005. <i>Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection</i> . Princeton: Princeton University Press.
10	11/15 – Ethnographic writing workshop	
11	11/22	Dove, Michael R. 2011. <i>The Banana Tree at the Gate: A History of Marginal Peoples and Global Markets in Borneo</i> . New Haven: Yale University Press.
12	11/29	Lansing, Stephen J. 2012. <i>Perfect Order: Recognizing Complexity in Bali</i> . Princeton: Princeton University Press.
13	12/06	Turner, Sarah, Christine Bonnin, and Jean Michaud. 2015. <i>Frontier Livelihoods: Hmong in the Sino-Vietnamese Borderlands</i> . Seattle: University of Washington Press.
14	12/13	Harms, Erik. 2011. <i>Saigon's Edge: On the Margins of Ho Chi Minh City</i> . Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
15	12/20	Johnson, Andrew Alan. 2014. <i>Ghosts of the New City: Spirits, Urbanity, and the Ruins of Progress in Chiang Mai</i> . Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
16	12/27 – Ethnographic writing workshop	
17	01/03 – Final presentations	
18	01/10 – Final exam week	Final papers due by email at midnight Friday 01/10