

ASIA 102 : INTRODUCTION TO THE CULTURES OF MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA

2/3 - 2006

STAFF

Prof. Ungku Maimunah Mohd. Tahir (Course Co-ordinator)

Room: VZ 714 Telephone: 463 5325 Email: Ungku.Maimunah@vuw.ac.nz

Lisa Kenny (Administrator)

Room: VZ 610 Telephone: 463 5294 E-mail: Lisa.Kenny@vuw.ac.nz

Jai Sokhaimai (Administrator)

Room: VZ 715 Telephone: 463 5638 E-mail: Jai.Shokhaimi@vuw.ac.nz

CLASS TIMES & ROOMS

Lecture:	Monday	9am – 10.50am	Room: MY(Murphy) LT102
Tutorial:	Wednesday	12.10pm – 1pm	Room: 22 Kelburn Parade Room 104
Or	Wednesday	2.10pm – 3pm	Room: 24 Kelburn Parade Room 101

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information concerning the course will be posted on the notice board located on the 7th floor of von Zedlitz, just to the right of room 715. If you need further assistance, please contact the administrator.

COURSE AIMS

For 2006, the course will focus on Malaysia

To acquaint students with some aspects of the social, cultural and political life of the peoples of Malaysia. In particular, it focuses on the historical circumstances that led to the establishment of present-day Malaysia; the negotiations, accommodations and compromises attendant upon the formation of a multiethnic society; and the working out of the various cultures in the evolvement of the Malaysian mosaic, uniquely underpinned by Malay cultural indigeneity.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A consideration of selected topics pertaining to the lives of the various communities in Malaysia, particularly the indigenous Malays. It will focus on their religions, belief systems, cultural practices as well as their socio-political life in a multiethnic society. The course will give students a general background of the Malay world

and its break-up following Western colonialism, the plural society that emerged with its attendant peculiarities and complexities, and the subsequent processes of integration and nationhood.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- understand the historical, religious and cultural factors that shape present-day multiethnic Malaysia
- appreciate the diversity, complexities and challenges attendant upon a multiethnic society
- clarify the various processes entailed in forging a multiethnic nation
- make informed critique of the various policies and integration strategies that obtain in Malaysia

COURSE CONTENT

- Historical overview of the Malay world and its break-up
 - The impact of colonialism on the demographic pattern, economic activity, political and social life of the population
 - The cultural heritage of the various ethnic groups, particularly the indigenous Malays
 - The challenges of a multi-ethnic society
 - The processes of integration and nationhood
- (A fuller schedule with readings and topics to be considered each week will be distributed in class)

TEXTS

There is no textbook as such for this paper, but readings for the lectures have been collected into a course book that can be purchased from Student Notes. The price of the course book has not yet been set.

OTHER MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

Students are encouraged to read news about Malaysia on the Internet. Some good sites include:

- Malaysian Information Sources <http://ianchai.50megs.com/malaysia.html>
- Malay Civilization <http://www.malaycivilization.com/>
- Also, students should read Asia Week in order to maintain a lively and critical interest in the Southeast Asian region as a whole.

ASSESSMENT

This course is entirely internally assessed. The breakdown of the assessment is as follows:

Tutorial presentation (10-15 minutes)	10%
Essay based on tutorial presentation	20%
Term essay	30%
2 hour final test	40%
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 100%

The date for submission of the first essay is one week after each individual student's tutorial presentation, whilst that of the second essay is 15th September 2006. The final test will be held at the last class.

- The first essay shall be between 1000-1500 words in length.
- The second essay shall be between 2000-2500 words in length.

Students will be required to show a lively interest in looking up and researching further material for the topic chosen for their tutorial presentations.

All assignments must be handed in by the deadlines specified to avoid penalties. 5% per day (counting a piece of work as 100%) will be deducted from work submitted after the assigned date without prior permission or without a necessary and demonstrable reason such as illness.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ASSESSMENT AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

The assessment procedures are designed to test how well you have understood the aims and objectives of the course and to ensure that you are able to understand the rich tapestry of Malay world civilization and its significance as a pivotal foundation upon which present-day multi-ethnic Malaysia bases and articulates its presence and identity.

WORKLOAD GUIDELINES

In order to maintain satisfactory progress and active interest in this course, students should try to read widely on news and discussions relating to the Malay World and Southeast Asia in general. It is suggested they should spend about 15 hours a week including contact hours in class. Students should pick up some words of Malay as they go along, and this is actively encouraged through the lectures.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Whilst attendance at lectures and tutorials is not compulsory, students are nevertheless encouraged to attend both lectures and tutorials in order to do well. As well, in order to pass this course, students must:

- Complete the course essays and sit for the test
- Complete and participate in the tutorial presentation

LECTURES WEEK 1 - THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (I)

THE MALAY WORLD

- Origins of the Malay people
- Malay Polity (the Malay Sultanates)

Readings:

Purcell, Victor. (1965). "Southeast Asia, its peoples, its culture, and its history to 1800". In *South and East Asia since 1800*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-17.

LECTURES WEEK 2 - THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (II)

COLONIALISM AND THE BREAK-UP OF THE MALAY WORLD

- The beginning of multi-ethnic society (multi-ethnic society versus plural society)
- The myth of Malay dominance (*ketuanan Melayu*)

Readings:

Abraham, C E R. (1997). "Ideology in the early colonial period". In *The Roots of Race Relations in Malaysia*. Kuala Lumpur: Insan, pp. 13–34.

LECTURES WEEK 3 - THE HERITAGE: SOCIAL, POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL (I)

THE MALAYS: SOCIAL & CULTURAL LIFE

- The social structure of the Malays
- The Malay *adat*
- The Malay rites of passage

Readings:

Abraham, C.E.R. (1997). "The impact of British colonial rule on Malay social class structure", In *The Roots of Race Relations in Malaysia*. Kuala Lumpur: Insan, pp. 65–93.

LECTURES WEEK 4 - THE HERITAGE: SOCIAL, POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL (II)

THE MALAYS: FROM ANIMISM TO ISLAM

- Animism, Hinduism and the spirit world
- *Tauhid* and the Malay-Muslim worldview

Readings:

Mohd. Taib Osman. (1985). "Islamization of the Malays: A Transformation of Culture". In *Readings on Islam in Southeast Asia*. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, pp. 44– 47.

Norazit Selat. (2004). "The Malays: A cultural history". In *Papers on Society and Culture*. Wellington, pp. 1-10.

LECTURES WEEK 5 - THE HERITAGE: SOCIAL, POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL (III)

THE CHINESE: BELIEFS, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE

- Buddhism, Taoism and ancestral reverence
- Some aspects of their cultural life: festivals

Readings:

Ryan, N.J. (1971). "The Chinese", In *The Cultural Heritage of Malaya*. Kuala Lumpur: Longman, pp. 75–101.

LECTURES WEEK 6 - THE HERITAGE: SOCIAL, POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL (IV)

THE INDIANS: BELIEFS, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE

- Hinduism
- Some aspects of their cultural life: festivals.

Readings:

Ryan, N.J. (1971). "The Indians". In *The Cultural Heritage of Malaya*. Kuala Lumpur: Longman, pp. 131–152.

LECTURES WEEK 7 - THE HERITAGE: SOCIAL, POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL (V)

THE ORANG ASLI OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA AND THE PEOPLES OF SABAH AND SARAWAK

- Their respective worldviews
- Some aspects of their cultural life

Readings:

Nicholas, Colin. (1996). "The Orang Asli of Peninsular Malaysia". In *Indigenous Peoples of Asia: Many Peoples, One Struggle*. Bangkok: Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, pp. 157–176.

King, Victor T. (Ed.). (1978). "Introduction". In *Essays on Borneo Societies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 2–36.

LECTURES WEEK 8 - NATIONHOOD: FROM MALAYA TO MALAYSIA (I)

INDEPENDENCE AND THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

- The indigeniety of the Malays
- The social contract between the three ethnic groups

Readings:

Andaya, B. & Andaya, L. (2001). *A History of Malaysia*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, pp. 256–300.

LECTURES WEEK 9 - NATIONHOOD: FROM MALAYA TO MALAYSIA (II)

THE POLITICAL SYSTEM

- The Alliance
- The National Front
- The Opposition

Readings:

Crouch, Harold. (1996). "The Government". In *Government and Society In Malaysia*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, pp. 32–55.

Andaya, B. & Andaya, L. (2001). *A History of Malaysia*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, pp. 256–300.

LECTURES WEEK 10 - NATIONHOOD: FROM MALAYA TO MALAYSIA (III)

THE NATIONAL CULTURE AND LITERATURE

- Principles of National Culture
- Malay indigeneity
- Contributions of other cultures

Readings:

Tahir, Ungku Maimunah Mohd.. (2003). "Nation, nationalism and the National literature". In *Readings in Modern Malay Literature*. Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa Dan Pustaka, pp. 14 –194.

LECTURES WEEK 11 - NATIONHOOD: FROM MALAYA TO MALAYSIA (IV)

SOME CURRENT ISSUES

- Islam Hadhari
- Tourism in Malaysia

Readings:

Bakar, Mohamad Abu. (1986). "Islam and nationalism in contemporary Malay society". In Abdullah, T. & Siddique, S. (Eds.), *Islam and Society in Southeast Asia*. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, pp. 155–174.

LECTURES WEEK 12 - FINAL TEST

Additional Readings

Clammer, John. 1996. "Social structure and value System in Southeast Asia". In *Values and Development in Southeast Asia*. Selangor: Pelandok Publications, pp. 15–28.

Omar, Asmah Haji. "The peoples of Malaysia". In *The Malay Peoples of Malaysia and their Languages*. Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa Dan Pustaka, pp. 26–41.

Tahir, Ungku Maimunah Mohd.. (1998). *Modern Malay Literary Culture*. Singapore: Institute of Asian Studies.

Rogers, Marvin L. "Malaysia: An historical perspective". In *Local Politics in Rural Malaysia*. Kuala Lumpur: Abdul Majeed, pp. 15–24.

TUTORIAL QUESTIONS

Discussion of assigned readings below:

1. Based on Peter Bellwood's (1997) article "The Patterns of History and Ethnography" (in *Pre-History of the Indo-Malaysian Archipelago*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, pp. 128–154), discuss your understanding of the concept of the Malay World.

2. Based on Chandra Muzaffar's (1979) article "Loyalty in the Malacca Period" (in *Protector?* Penang: Aliran, pp. 1–32), to what extent do you see the Malay concept of loyalty as an impediment to or motivation towards success.
3. Based on Susan Ackerman Raymond Lee's (1988) article "The Path Of Mystical Dissent: The Baitiangong Alternative In Chinese Religion" (in *Heaven in Transition: Non-Muslim Religious Innovation and Ethnic Identity in Malaysia*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, pp.120 – 153) to what extent do you agree with Ryan's observation that economic considerations largely underpin Chinese religions and beliefs.
4. Based on Rajakrishnan Ramasamy's (1984) article "Structure, Perceptions and Patterns of Caste Observance" (in *Caste Consciousness among Indian Tamils in Malaysia*. Kuala Lumpur: Pelanduk Publications, pp. 14–46) discuss your understanding of the merits and demerits of the Hindu caste system.
5. Based on S. Husin Ali's (1984) article "Social Relations: The Ethnic and Class Factors" (in *Ethnicity, Class and Development in Malaysia*. Kuala Lumpur: Printsystem, pp. 13–31) discuss your understanding of the root cause of social and economic disparity among the various ethnic communities in Malaysia.
6. Based on Mahathir Mohamad's (1998) article "The New Economic Policy" (in *The Way Forward*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicholson, pp. 1–37) discuss your understanding of the rationale behind Malaysia's economic policy.

QUESTIONS FOR TERM PAPER

Due on 22nd September, 2006. Answer ONE question only. Word count = 2000 – 2500.

1. To what extent were the British successful in establishing a multi-ethnic, as opposed to a plural, society in Malaya.
2. To what extent was the social contract instrumental in maintaining the myth of Malay dominance (*ketuanan Melayu*) in Malaya/Malaysia.
3. The National Culture Policy was a sound tool for national integration. Discuss.
4. With its political stability, economic progress and harmonious social relations among the various ethnic communities, Malaysia can be said to be a good example of a "moderate Islamic society". Discuss the statement.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies & statutes, particularly those regarding assessment & course of study requirements, & formal academic grievance procedures.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND STAFF CONDUCT

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps can be taken if there is a complaint. For queries about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor. This Statute is available in the Faculty Student Administration Office or on the website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StudentConduct

The policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StaffConduct

ACADEMIC GRIEVANCES

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned or, if you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean of your faculty. Class representatives are available to assist you with this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is published on the VUW website: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/AcademicGrievances.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means **no cheating**. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. Plagiarism is **prohibited** at Victoria.

The University defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not.

'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea, even if it is presented in your own style. It includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other

students or staff, information from the Internet, software programmes and other electronic material, designs and ideas. It also includes the organization or structuring of any such material.

Plagiarism is not worth the risk!

Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct (www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct) and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- suspension from class or university
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course.

Find out more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, on the University's website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities an equal opportunity with all other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the Course Co-ordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services to confidentially discuss your individual needs and the options and support that are available.

Disability Support Services are located on:

Level 1, Robert Stout Bldg

Telephone: 463-6070 Email: disability@vuw.ac.nz

The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is:

Andrew Barke (vZ 705)

Telephone: 463-6467 Email: andrew.barke@vuw.ac.nz

STUDENT SUPPORT

Staff at Victoria want students' learning experiences at the University to be positive. If your academic progress is causing you concern, the following staff members will either help you directly or quickly put you in contact with someone who can.

School of Asian & European Languages & Cultures
MALAY STUDIES PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE ASIA 102

	Staff Member	Location
FHSS	Dr Allison Kirkman	Murphy Building, Room 407
Law	Kirstin Harvey	Old Govt Building, Room 103
Science, Architecture and Design	Liz Richardson	Cotton Building, Room 150
Commerce and Administration	Colin Jeffcoat	Railway West Wing, Room 119
Kaiwawao Maori	Liz Rawhiti	Old Kirk, Room 007
Manaaki Pihipihinga	Melissa Dunlop	14 Kelburn Pde, Room 109D
Victoria International	Matthias Nebel	Rutherford House, Room 206

The Student Services Group is also available to provide a variety of support services.

Find out more at: www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/

Email: student-services@vuw.ac.nz

VUWSA employs two Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building:

Telephone: 463 6983 or 463 6984

Email: education@vuwsa.org.nz