

Course Number: INTL 406 Field Studies

Course Title: Introduction to South-East Asia: International Travel, Globalization and Culture

Instructor:

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Course Administrator:

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1. Course description:

This course will provide both an introduction to Southeast Asian history, politics and culture, and will explore broader issues of international politics, travel/tourism, and globalisation. These broader themes will be explored through a series of case studies drawn from the places, peoples and issues encountered during travel study.

2. Course objectives:

- To introduce students to the histories, politics and cultures of Southeast Asian nations through travel study as they visit the places they are learning about.
- To explore the interconnected issues of globalisation, international relations and travel in an immediate and relevant way through Southeast Asian case studies.
- For students to explore the interconnections between processes of globalisation and regional geo-politics and the potential impacts of their presence as travellers.
- Through discussion and written interactions students and instructors will jointly consider the positive and negative aspects of travel study in its relationship with processes of globalisation and individual learning.

3. Course outline:

The course is structured around seven key topics. For each topic students should complete the assigned readings, participate in a class discussion and write a short essay.

Topic 1: Introducing Globalisation and Southeast Asia

Class Discussion via email with instructor: Prior to departure.

Essay Due: Prior to departure.

Question:

Come up with working definitions of 'globalisation', 'travel' and 'tourism'. What signs of globalisation do you anticipate seeing during your upcoming travels through Southeast Asia? Use material from the assigned readings to support your discussion.

Readings:

- Osborne (2002) "Introduction", pp1-17 in *Exploring Southeast Asia: A traveller's history of the region*, Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin.
- Scheyvens. (2002), *Backpacker Tourism and Third World Development*
- Tomlinson (1999) "Globalization and Culture", pp.1-31 in *Globalization and Culture* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Topic 2: Chiang Mai – National Identities and Minority Peoples

Class Discussion: Day 10, Chiang Mai.

Essay Due: Before leaving Chiang Mai.

Question:

Based on the readings and on your recent experiences with your Karen guides and in a Karen village, what difficulties do so-called 'hill tribe' people face in contemporary Thailand? How might tourists such as ourselves accentuate or ameliorate some of these difficulties? Use material from the assigned readings and examples from your recent experiences to support your discussion.

Readings:

- Bartsch (2000), *The Impact of Trekking Tourism in a Changing Society: A Karen Village in Northern Thailand*
- Osborne (2002) "Minorities and Slaves: Outsiders in traditional Southeast Asia" pp64-72 in *Exploring Southeast Asia: A traveller's history of the region*, Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin.

Topic 3: Luang Prabang, Laos – Culture and Heritage

Class Discussion: Day 21, Luang Prabang.

Essay Due: Before leaving Luang Prabang.

Question:

In what ways does Luang Prabang as a World Heritage site demonstrate the interplays between “globality” and “territory” discussed by Scholt? Use material from the assigned readings and examples from your recent experiences to support your discussion.

[Hint: Think about how Luang Prabang locals engage with their ‘heritage’ as both a tourist attraction and as their own community heritage. Is there a conflict between Buddhist temples as a tourist attraction and as an important part of a living religion?]

Readings:

- Ly, Bui Nguyen Cam. (2003). "As Hordes of Tourists Come, Heritage Goes." <http://www.ipsnews.net/mekong/stories/heritage.html>
- Osborne (2002), “Other Paths to Independence: Laos”, pp172-176 in *Exploring Southeast Asia: A traveller's history of the region*, Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin.
- Osborne (2002), “Southeast Asia’s Living Past”, pp220-226 in *Exploring Southeast Asia: A traveller's history of the region*, Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin.
- Scholte (2000) “What is ‘Global’ About Globalization?” in *Globalization: A Critical Introduction* New York: St. Martin's Press.

Topic 4: Sapa, Vietnam – Minority Peoples and Tourism

Class Discussion: Day 27, Halong Bay.

Essay Due: Before leaving Hanoi for Hue.

Question:

Reflecting on the readings and your experiences in and around Sapa revisit your response to Topic 1, and revise your response in accordance with your experiences in Vietnam. Use material from the assigned readings and examples from your recent experiences to support your discussion.

[Hint: Think about what difficulties 'montagnards' face in contemporary Vietnam with regard to their relationship with the state, or the cultural or environmental impacts of tourism. How might tourists such as ourselves accentuate or ameliorate the situation – are we contributing to a process of ‘Westernization’?]

Readings:

- Michaud and Turner. (2000), *The Sapa Marketplace*, Lao Cai Province, Vietnam
- Osborne (2002) “Courts, Kings and Peasants: the traditional world”, pp45-63 in *Exploring Southeast Asia: A traveller's history of the region*, Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin.

Topic 5: Vietnam: International Relationships – Conflict and Ideology

Class Discussion: Day 37, Saigon.

Essay Due: Before leaving Phnom Penh.

Question:

What drove foreign involvement in Vietnam (and Southeast Asia more broadly) during the time of the Vietnam War, and what to you are the ongoing impacts of the ‘American War’? Use material from the assigned readings and examples from your recent experiences to support your discussion.

[Hint: Think about how the war has affected your experiences of Vietnam – what evidence do you see of the war still, how might it affect the way you are perceived by locals?]

Readings:

- Osborne (2002), “The years of Illusion”, pp129-144 in *Exploring Southeast Asia: A traveller's history of the region*, Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin.
- Osborne (2002), “Revolution and Revolt” 159-171 in *Exploring Southeast Asia: A traveller's history of the region*, Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin.
- Pilger on Vietnam: <http://pilger.carlton.com/page.asp?partid=14> Begin at this page but read all of Pilger on Vietnam at this website.

Topic 6: Siem Reap, Cambodia: Remembering the Past

Class Discussion: Day 46, Phnom Penh.

Essay Due: Before leaving Siem Reap.

Question:

In what ways does Tuol Sleng (as well as the War Remnants Museum and the Cu Chi tunnels) engage foreign tourists and locals in remembering and evaluating the past? Use material from the assigned readings and examples from your recent experiences to support your discussion.

[Hint: Think about representations of good and evil, and how Vickery’s accounts of the Khmer Rouge era differ strongly from the representations at Tuol Sleng. How are visitors encouraged to take lessons into their future? How does it influence the ways local people make a living?]

Readings:

- Osborne (2002) “Great Cities and Great Empires in a Land of Gold”, pp21-44 in *Exploring Southeast Asia: A traveller's history of the region* Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin.

- Osborne (2002) “Challenges of the Post-colonial Era”, pp183-191 in *Exploring Southeast Asia: A traveller's history of the region*, Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin.
- Vickery (1984) “The Gentle Land” in *Cambodia, 1975-1982* Boston: South End Press.

Topic 7: Thailand: Globalization Phobias – Tourism and the sex industry.

Class Discussion: Day 54, Southern Thailand

Essay Due: Before program end.

Question:

Askew, Lea and Manderson have very different perspectives on the power dynamics implicit in international tourism. How are these different perspectives evidenced in Patpong? Use material from the assigned readings and examples from your recent experiences to support your discussion.

[Hint: Think about how Patpong can be seen as a globalized space, and what this means for both local people and tourists – how may people behave differently here than they would ‘at home’? Why is there so much focus on sex tourism from ‘the West’ and so little on the domestic sex industry – is the sex industry fundamentally different when it is geared at foreign customers? As an audience are you contributing to this?]

Readings:

- Askew (2002), “Sex workers in Bangkok: Refashioning female identities in the global pleasure space” pp251-283 in *Bangkok: Place, Practice and Representation* London: Routledge.
- Manderson (1995). "The Pursuit of Pleasure and the Sale of Sex." in *Sexual Nature/ Sexual Culture: theorizing sexuality from the perspective of pleasure*, edited by P. Abramson and S. Pinkerton. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Osborne (2002) “Contemporary Southeast Asia”, pp192-219 in *Exploring Southeast Asia: A traveller's history of the region*, Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin.

Instructions for obtaining the course readings

Students should complete as much of the reading as possible before travelling to Bangkok. **All course texts must be obtained prior to departure and students must bring the texts with them to read and refer to during travel.**

The key text for the course is Osborne, Milton. (2002). *Exploring Southeast Asia: A traveller's history of the region*. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin. This text must be purchased prior to departure (available from www.amazon.com for approx US\$12).

For all other readings: Refer to <http://www.pacificdiscovery.org/student-programs-semester-summer-gap-year/credit-information-UO.aspx#readings> and print the readings out **prior to departure**.

Instructions for completing short essays

Essays should be written to the standard of any university essay. If you are unsure of how to write an essay consult an essay writing guide before you begin the course (I recommend *Essay writing for students* by Clanchy and Ballard). According to Clanchy and Ballard, the basic requirements for a university level essay are that it:

- Be clearly focused on the set topic and deal fully with its central concerns;
- Be the result of wide and critical reading;
- Present a reasoned (and structured and coherent) argument;
- Be competently presented (with appropriate style and referencing).

In addition to these criteria your instructor will be looking for evidence that you have incorporated your own experiences and observations from the travel study experience in your discussion.

Each essay must be between 500-600 words, typed, and submitted by the due date to your course instructor: scott@pacificdiscovery.org

Instructions for participation in class discussions

For each topic the course facilitator will convene a class discussion. To prepare for the discussion students must complete the assigned readings and make notes on the essay question. Your **active participation** in the discussion sessions is a vital part of this course, so make sure you come along prepared to share your views on the readings and the assigned essay question.

4. Methods of instruction:

Through weekly readings and short essays in response to set questions students will be asked to synthesise an analysis of the readings with places and experiences of the previous week. These will be reinforced in facilitated group discussions (and internet-based interactions) with the instructor around the set questions which will provide a forum to explore emerging issues, concerns and ideas.

5. Course requirements:

Prior to travel

- Complete assigned readings for topic 1.

During Travel

- Complete readings and write up a short response paper to each of the set questions (between 500-600 words each).
- Attend each class discussion prepared to discuss the set question and share your reflections and experiences
- Discuss the progress of the course with your instructor regularly.

6. Evaluation:

1. Contribution to class discussions (30%)

Class discussions will focus on the set topics. To prepare for the seminar complete the assigned readings, reflect on your experiences in relation to the set question and write the short essay for that topic.

2. Short essays (70%)

Complete 7 short essays during travel study. Essays must be submitted via email to scott@pacificdiscovery.org by the due date.

3. Post Field Studies Requirements: Due 10 days after program end

Upon completion of your field studies, you must submit a field studies report to Scott Burnett. He will check that it addresses the required points below and then will forward it to Dr. Kathie Carpenter at the University of Oregon. **It is important to note that you will not have completed course requirements until you submit this report.**

The field studies report (approximately 15-20 pages) must contain the following information:

1. A description of the organization you traveled with, its mission statement and the clientele it serves.
2. A description of your field studies experience, including what you actually did on the program (length, details etc).
3. How being an International Studies Program (ISP) major prepared you for this program and how any UO and ISP courses helped in preparation for this experience. (If not an ISP major, or UO student, describe how any classes you have taken/previous experiences you have had, have prepared you for this program experience).
4. Reflections on your experience regarding what you learned from this field studies program, and how you anticipate this will contribute to your future goals, choices and future career.
5. Your field studies report is due no more than 10 days after the program conclusion.

4. Grading

INTL 406 is graded 'pass / no pass'. If you require a letter grade for your university, please contact us - we can arrange enrolment under a different course number - you must do this before enrolling.

7. Text and references:

- Askew, Marc. (2002). "Sex workers in Bangkok: Refashioning female identities in the global pleasure space." pp. 251-283 in *Bangkok: Place, Practice and Representation*. London: Routledge.
- Bartsch, Henry. (2000). "The Impact of Trekking Tourism in a Changing Society: A Karen Village in Northern Thailand." in *Turbulent Times, Enduring Peoples: Mountain Minorities in the Southeast Asian Massif*, edited by J. Michaud. Richmond, Surrey: Curzon Press.
- Ly, Bui Nguyen Cam. (2003). "As Hordes of Tourists Come, Heritage Goes." in <http://www.ipsnews.net/mekong/stories/heritage.html>: International Press Service
- Manderson, Lenore. (1995). "The Pursuit of Pleasure and the Sale of Sex." in *Sexual Nature/ Sexual Culture: theorizing sexuality from the perspective of pleasure*, edited by P. Abramson and S. Pinkerton. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Michaud, Jean and Sarah Turner. (2000). "The Sapa Marketplace, Lao Cai Province, Vietnam." *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* 41:85-100.
- Osborne, Milton. (2002). *Exploring Southeast Asia: A traveller's history of the region*. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin.
- Scheyvens, Regina. (2002). "Backpacker Tourism and Third World Development." *Annals of Tourism Research* 29:144-164.
- Scholte, Jan Aart (2000) *Globalization: A Critical Introduction* New York: St. Martin's Press.
- Tomlinson, John. (1999) *Globalization and Culture* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Vickery, Michael. (1984). *Cambodia, 1975-1982*. Boston: South End Press.