INTD 497-02: Ethnic minorities, states and development in Southeast Asia
Preliminary Fall 2013 Syllabus

Instructor: Karen McAllister
Institute for the Study of International Development (ISID), McGill University
Email: karen.mcallister@mcgill.ca
Office phone: (514)398-7386
Time of class: Tuesdays 8:35-11:35 AM
Class location: TBA
Office location: Room 210, Peterson Hall, McTavish Street
Office hours: Wednesdays, 3:45-5:30 PM

Course description:

Southeast Asia is renowned for its ethnic, linguistic and ecological diversity. The many different ethnic groups living in the mountains (sometimes referred to as “hill tribes”) often span national boundaries and have been incorporated into nation-states as minorities and marginal citizens. Contemporary rapid development in Southeast Asia is having an enormous impact on these ethnic minorities, who are being displaced from their lands and livelihoods in the name of development and conservation, but at the same time are eager to pursue development “on their own terms”. This has led to various strategies of compliance and resistance, in some places resulting in indigenous social movements that are linked with broader international human rights and environmental networks. This seminar will explore the evolving relationships between ethnic minorities and states in Southeast Asia, from pre-colonial to contemporary situations. We will examine the construction of boundaries and identities in Southeast Asia, and the processes through which ethnic minorities and their territories have been represented, incorporated and/or excluded into nation-states across time. What does it mean to be “marginal” citizens? What are the impacts of contemporary development and conservation policies on ethnic minorities in Southeast Asia? How do various understandings of development, environment and citizenship influence these policies? What types of resistance and socio-political movements are emerging?

Although this seminar focuses on the situation of ethnic minorities in Southeast Asia, it will explore themes concerning environment, development, adaptation and resistance that are relevant to other parts of the world. This thematic focus means that some Asian countries will not be covered in class. However, students are encouraged to follow their specific interests and write research papers about countries and peoples not covered in the course readings. Seminars will be supplemented by films and guest lectures when this is appropriate.

This is a 400 level seminar class intended for final year IDS students. The class will require active student participation. Students will be expected to come prepared with discussion questions and comments on the class readings, and to take turns giving a brief introduction to each reading.
Grade Distribution and Assessment:

Class Participation: 20%
In-class presentation/discussion of one reading: 5%
Mid-term assignment: 15%  (can be passed in any time on or before November 12)
Abstract/paper proposal and reference list: 5% (due October 8th)
Final term paper: 45% (Due December 4th)
Final paper presentation: 10%

Participation: The class will require active student participation. Students are expected to have completed the readings prior to class, and to come prepared with discussion questions and ideas. Participation is graded on attendance and thoughtful engagement in class discussions.

In class presentation/discussion of one reading: At the beginning of the semester, students will sign up to present one of the readings in the class. These presentations should be about 10 minutes (no longer than this) and should summarize the important points of the article and end with a question for discussion about the reading presented or about the theme of all the readings for that week. These presentations will be made in front of the class, and you are allowed to use power point or the blackboard if you want (but not necessary). No more than 4 power point slides if you decide to use this.

Mid-term assignment: The mid-term assignment is a short analytical paper (4 pages, double spaced) that is based on one week’s set of readings – the choice of which week is up to the student. Any set of readings can be chosen except for the class on IUARP and participatory development projects. This assignment is not a summary, but an analytical comparison, review and critique of the different perspectives or arguments of the articles assigned for that one week, focusing on a central issue that the articles address. The midterm can be passed in at any time during the semester (ideally, you should try to pass it in the week after the readings are discussed, but I am flexible about this). THE FINAL DEADLINE TO PASS THESE IN IS NOVEMBER 12.

Abstract/paper proposal plus reference list: A one page (double-spaced) abstract/paper proposal in addition to a preliminary reference list (10-15 references) describing your proposed paper topic. This is to get you started on the research early, and so I can give you some feedback if necessary. Paper topics should be approved in advance with the instructor.

Final term paper: This is a research paper of about 4000 words (about 12 pages double-spaced, not including references). The paper should address some issue related to rural development and food security. The choice of topic will depend on the specific interest of the student, and can focus on issues or countries that have not been covered in the class but are related to the theme of the seminar. The final paper is due on DECEMBER 4.

Late papers and assignments will be penalised one half-grade per day (e.g. a paper that is one day late would go from an A to A-).
Mini-conference: The last 3 classes of the semester will take the form of a mini-conference in which each student will give a formal 10 minute presentation of their term paper topic. Paper presentations will be organised into panels of similar topics, and time will be given for questions and discussion.

Statement on Academic Integrity:
McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism, and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Course materials:


   Book is available for purchase at Paragraph bookstore, and also available as an electronic book from the McGill library.

2. A small course pack of book chapters that are not available electronically can be purchased from the McGill bookstore.

3. Links to journal articles and book chapters that are available electronically through the McGill library will be posted on myCourses (webCT).

4. Required books will be kept on reserve at the McLennan library, and all films are available at the library (not on reserve).
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 3</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Sept 10</td>
<td>Pre-colonial states and ethnic minorities</td>
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<td>Sept 17</td>
<td>Nation-states, boundaries and constructing marginality</td>
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<td>Sept 24</td>
<td>Environmental narratives</td>
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<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>IUARP and projects in the uplands</td>
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<td>Oct 8</td>
<td>Indigeneity, NGOs and environmental movements</td>
<td>Paper proposal due</td>
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<td>Oct 15</td>
<td>Resistance movements</td>
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<td>Oct 22</td>
<td>Representations: Tourism and Objectifying minorities</td>
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<td>Oct 29</td>
<td>Diasporas</td>
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<td>Nov 5</td>
<td>Land grabs and ethnic minorities</td>
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<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>Student presentations.</td>
<td>Last day for mid-term</td>
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<td>Nov 19</td>
<td>Student presentations</td>
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<td>Nov 26</td>
<td>Student presentations (last class)</td>
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<td>Dec 4</td>
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<td>Final paper due</td>
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**Class and reading schedule:**

**September 3: Introduction**

Film: The Meo

**September 10: Pre-colonial states and ethnic minorities**


**September 17: Colonialism, nationalism, and marginality: constructing ethnic and territorial boundaries**


Other readings of interest on this topic (Optional):


September 24: Contested knowledge: Environmental narratives and ethnic minorities


October 1: Contemporary development projects in SE Asia: The Integrated Upland Agriculture Research Project (IUARP) in northern Laos.

Selection of original documents and reports from the Integrated Upland Agricultural Research Project (IUARP), a development project that involved ethnic minorities in upland Laos. IUARP will be used to provide an example of how similar projects are designed and implemented, and analysed and critiqued according to what has been learned in earlier course materials. These will be available on webCT.


Optional readings of interest:


October 8: Strategic representations: Indigeneity, NGOs and environmental conservation.


October 15: Resistance, ethnic nationalism and conflict


FILM: Burma VJ

Optional:


October 22: Objectifying minorities: ethnic tourism and gendered vulnerabilities


FILM: Daughters and sons: preventing child trafficking in the golden triangle. Directed by Sarah Feinbloom (30 minutes)

Optional:

October 29: Borders, trans-border networks and diasporas

FILM: From Opium to Chrysanthemums. A film by PeA Holmquist and Suzanne Khardalian. (75 minutes)


Optional:


November 5: Land grabs and ethnic minorities in Southeast Asia


Other readings TBA

November 12: Student mini-conference presentations
November 19: Student mini-conference presentations
November 26: Student mini-conference presentations