INTEGR 497-04: Ethnic minorities, states and development in Southeast Asia
Fall 2012 Syllabus

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Time of class: Thursdays, 4-7PM
Class location: Burnside Hall 706
Office location: Room 210, Peterson Hall, McTavish Street
Office hours: Thursdays, 12:30-2:30 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%
Mid-term assignment: 15%
Final term paper: 50% (45% for paper, and 5% for abstract/proposal and reference list)
Final presentation: 15%

**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. Students will be expected to take turns summarising the key points of the readings each week and helping facilitate the discussions. Seminars will be supplemented with guest lectures and films when appropriate.

**Mid-term assignment:** The mid-term assignment is a short analytical paper (4-5 pages double-spaced) that is based on one week’s set of readings – the choice of which week is up to the student. This assignment is not a summary, but an analytical comparison and critique of the perspectives of the different articles which focuses on some central issue that the articles address. These are due one week after the set of class readings. Final day to pass these in is November 15. Any set of readings can be chosen except for the class on the IUARP project and upland development projects.

**Final term paper:** This is a research paper of about 13-15 pages double-spaced. The paper should address some aspect of ethnic minority issues in Southeast Asia, either focusing on a specific country, project, ethnic group or concern. 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. However the paper topic should be approved in advance with the instructor, and a one page abstract/paper proposal plus a preliminary reference list (10-15 references) will be due on October 25. The final paper will be due on December 5.

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 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](http://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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<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Sept 13</td>
<td>Pre-colonial states and ethnic minorities</td>
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<td>Sept 20</td>
<td>Nation-states, boundaries and constructing marginality</td>
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<td>Sept 27</td>
<td>Environmental narratives</td>
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<td>Oct 4</td>
<td>IUARP and projects in the uplands</td>
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<td>Oct 25</td>
<td>Representations: Tourism and Objectifying minorities</td>
<td>Paper proposal due</td>
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<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>Indigeneity, NGOs and environmental movements</td>
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<td>Nov 15</td>
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<td>Dec 5</td>
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Class and reading schedule:

Thursday, September 6: Introduction

Film: The Meo

Thursday, September 13: Pre-colonial states and ethnic minorities


September 20: Colonialism, nationalism, and marginality: constructing ethnic and territorial boundaries


Other readings of interest on this topic (Optional):


September 27: Contested knowledge: Environmental narratives and ethnic minorities


October 4: 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 11: Resistance, ethnic nationalism and conflict**


FILM: Burma VJ

Optional:


**October 18: Special class on library research held by Juanita Jara de Súmar, International Development Studies Liaison Librarian**

**October 25: 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:


November 1: Strategic representations: Indigeneity, NGOs and environmental conservation.


Reading on protected areas: TBA

November 8: Borders, trans-border networks and diasporas

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


Optional:

November 15: Student mini-conference presentations
November 22: Student mini-conference presentations
November 29: Student mini-conference presentations