

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
CHAIR OF MALAY STUDIES**

ASIA 102 INTRODUCTION TO THE CULTURES OF MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA

TRIMESTER 2 2010

12 July to 13 November 2010

Please read through this material very carefully in the first week of the course, and refer to it regularly.

Trimester Dates

Teaching dates: Monday 12 July – Friday 15 October

Mid-trimester break: 23 August – 5 September

Study week begins: Monday 18 October

End of trimester: Saturday 13 November

Please note students should be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

Names and contact details

Teaching Staff:

VZ 714	Prof. Wan Rafaei wan.rafaei@vuw.ac.nz	Lecturer Course Coordinator	ph. 463 4704
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Administrator: to be appointed

Contact Person for Maori and Pacific Students and Students with Disabilities:

VZ507	Dr Ross Woods ross.woods@vuw.ac.nz	ph. 463 5098
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Class times and locations

Lectures

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2.10pm - 3.00pm in HU (Hunter) LT119

Tutorial

Tuesdays from 11.00am – 11.50am in VZ (Von Zedlitz) 515

Course delivery

This course is delivered through two lectures and one tutorial per week.

Communication of 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 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)

Learning objectives

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.

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

Expected workload

The Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Committee on Workloads and Assessment has laid down guidelines as to the number of hours per week which students are expected to devote to a course in order to maintain satisfactory progress. Students enrolling in a 100-level 1-trimester 20-point course should work on average 13 hours per week including contact hours.

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. Students should pick up some words of Malay as they go along, and this is actively encouraged through the lectures.

Readings

Essential texts: ASIA 102: Introduction to the Cultures of Malaysia and Indonesia Handbook

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from VicBooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

Materials

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 requirements

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%
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Total	100%

The date for submission of the essay is one week after each individual student's tutorial presentation, whilst that of the second essay is 16th September 2010. 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.

Penalties

The due dates for the assignments given in the Course Programme must be adhered to. Although work may be accepted late in special circumstances, the Course Co-ordinator should always be contacted on or before the due dates if there is a problem. The penalty for work presented late without prior approval is a 5% deduction per day.

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

Class representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as 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, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

General university policies and statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

Course Programme

LECTURES WEEK 1 - THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (I)

THE MALAY WORLD

- Origins of the Malay people

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

- Colonization
- Rationale for colonisation
- The beginning of multi-ethnic society

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

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.

Khalil Akasah (2005) National integration in a new state – Malaysia. Kuala Lumpur: ASIE Sdn. Bhd

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: Prinsystem, 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 16th September, 2010. Answer ONE question only. Word count = 2000 – 2500.

1. Discuss the breakdown of the Malay world.
2. To what extent were the British successful in establishing a multi-ethnic society in Malaysia.
3. To what extent was the social contract instrumental in maintaining the political stability in Malaya/ Malaysia.
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.