

Syllabus

AAS/HIS 340 Topics in Asian History

Ethnicity, Pluralism and Nationhood in Singapore

Frank Shih, Ph.D., Director/Instructor

Winter 2020 – Study Abroad Travel Period: Sat. Jan. 4 – Sat. Jan. 18, 2020

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Singapore is a prosperous nation known for its rich history and multicultural heritage. The economic development has been attributed to the cultural contributions from diverse populations guided by government policies and laws regulating ethnic representation in housing, education, civil service and other forms of socioeconomic participation. The 15-day study tour will explore the melding of populations against the backdrop of British imperialism, post-colonial nation-building, Chinese and Indian diaspora, globalization and trade networks. The class will visit heritage sites, museums, places of worship and historic landmarks of the three major populations of Chinese, Malays, Tamil (Indians). Additional excursions include popular sightseeing attractions. The course includes a three-day trip to the Malaysian city of Melaka known for its history of colonialism and cultural diversity. Through the experience, students will gain an understanding of the factors that transformed Singapore from a trading village to a 21st Century model for nation-building.

This course is offered as both AAS 340 and HIS 340. *DEC: J, SBC: SBS+, EXP+. 3 credits*

GOAL

To survey the demographic, social and cultural diversity of present day Singapore and the historical impact of government policies and administrative practices on the daily lives of its multi-ethnic population.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES (LO)

LO1: Understand the historical events that have shaped the peoples and political economy of Singapore.

LO2: Distinguish between different ethnic populations that contribute to Singapore culture and society.

LO3: Learn government policies and cultural practices that impact relations between ethnic groups.

LO4: Identify major differences in language, religion, local commerce and cuisine among the population.

COURSE DELIVERY

This is a hybrid study abroad course. There will be face-to-face lectures while the group is in Singapore. In addition to the two-week study-tour in Singapore and Melaka, Malaysia, there will be online assignments prior to and after the travel period. The course is delivered in the Blackboard (Bb) learning management system (LMS). Students must be mindful of all course expectations, deliverables and due dates. All assignments will use internet technologies. See the “Technical Requirements” section for more information.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Turnbull, C.M. (2009) *A History of Modern Singapore, 1819-2005*. Singapore: National University of Singapore Press. ISBN: 978-9971-69-343-5

Individual Chapters Assigned in the Following Texts (Available in Bb)

Carstens, Sharon A. (2005) *Histories, Cultures, Identities: Studies in Malaysian Chinese Worlds*
Singapore: National Univ. of Singapore Press ISBN: 978-9971-69-312-1

Saw, Swee-Hock (2003) *The Population of Singapore* (3rd Edition). Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. ISBN: 981- 4380989

Tan, Kenneth Paul (2017) *Governing Global-City Singapore: Legacies and Futures After Lee Kuan Yew*. NY: Routledge. ISBN 978-1-138-65489-1

Hack, Karl and Jean-Louis Margolin, with Karine Delaye, Eds. (2010) *Singapore from Temasek to the 21st Century: Reinventing the Global City*. Singapore: National Univ. of Singapore Press ISBN: 978-9971-69-515-6

Mutalib, Hussin (2012) *Singapore Malays: Being Ethnic Minority and Muslim in a Global*. NY: Routledge. ISBN 981-0-415509637

REQUIRED FILMS (Available online)

History of Singapore by Discovery - Part 1, Raffle's Little Child. 47:30
Singapore Academy of Corporate Management, Discovery Channel Documentary
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3IOtLlbQ78>

History of Singapore by Discovery - Part 2, Accidental Nation 47:30
Singapore Academy of Corporate Management, Discovery Channel Documentary
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJgPijyr9lo>

History of Singapore by Discovery - Part 3 Lion City: Asian Tiger 47:30
Singapore Academy of Corporate Management, Discovery Channel Documentary
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rThuNXvXs8c>

City of the Future: Singapore – Episode I. National Geographic 44:24
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xi6r3hZe5Tg>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Pre-Departure Essay I: Based on the film History of Singapore Part I and II. 15% of the course grade. In 400 words (2 pages) or more describe three events in the colonial era that you feel had the most impact on modern Singapore. How do you imagine this history of the wider Southeast Asia region might be influenced if Raffles and the British had not developed Singapore?
Deadline: One week (Saturday) prior to departure.

B. Pre-Departure Essay II: Based on the film City of the Future: Singapore. In 400 words (2 pages) or more, describe the influences of globalization on the government policies in Singapore – 15% of the course grade.
Deadline: Friday prior to departure.

C. Group Oral Reports: Students are divided into groups to give 30 minute presentations based on an assigned article or chapter of a book. The time and date TBA. 15% of the course grade.

D. Journal - 45%.of the course grade. Based on the personal reflections and observations on the trip submit a day-to-day journal of your experiences. Describe and provide reactions to the places and people that you

encounter and how they challenge your view of the country and the ideals of multiculturalism. The minimal length is 2000 words (10 pages). Deadline: 2nd Sunday after returning.

E. Attendance- 10% of the course grade. All activities including those on the itinerary are mandatory. Students must remain with the group during the entire travel period except when an exception is requested and approved by the instructor in advance of the tour departure.

ITINERARY AND COURSE CALENDAR Daily breakfast and meals that are numbered are provided.

Date 2020	Morning Lectures and Readings	Afternoon	Evening
Sat. 1/4 - Sun 1/5 Leave JFK, Arrive Late PM			
Mon 1/6 Chinatown	9:30 -11:30 am – Lect.: Introduction to course, Ice breaker, Review of syllabus, excursions and topics. (2 hrs)	Lunch on your own 1 – 5 pm Singapore City Gallery, Chinatown Heritage Center. Sri Mariamman Temple, NUS Baba House (4hrs)	Dinner on your own Explore Clark Quay
Tue 1/7 Civic District;	9:30 -11:30 am -Lect: “High Noon of Empire” (Turnbull, Ch.3 pp. 93-136) (2 hrs)	Lunch on your own 1 – 5 pm Singapore National Museum, Asian Civilization Museum, Parliament Building (4hrs)	Dinner on your own - La Pau Sat, Explore Civic Center (1hr)
Wed 1/8 Chinatown Civic District	9:30 -11:30 am Lect. and group report #1 : The Chinese Diaspora (Turnbull, Ch. 4, pp. 137-168) (2 hrs)	Lunch on your own: 1 –5 pm Peranakan Museum, Buddha Tooth Relic Temple, Chinese Medicine Pharmacy, Masjid Chulia Mosque. (4hrs)	Dinner on your own: Explore Chinatown (1hr)
Thu 1/9 Little India	9:30 -11:30 am Lect. and group report #2: (Saw, pp. 57-58) (2 hrs)	Lunch on your own Tekka Center, 1 – 5 pm Indian Heritage Center, Hindu Temple (4hrs)	Dinner #1 with Locals (2hrs) Mustafa Center
Fri 1/10 Kampung Glam/Arab St.	9:30 -11:30 am Lect. and group report #3: (Carsten. pp. 199-232) (2 hrs)	Lunch on your own 1 – 5 pm Malay Heritage Museum, Arab St., Sultan Mosque (4hrs)	Dinner #2 with Locals (2hrs) Haji Lane (1hr)
Sat 1/11 Melaka	9:30 -11:30 am – Lect. – Malaya & Malaysia. (Turnbull: pp.. 259-298) (2 hrs)	11:30 pm Leave for Melaka Lunch #1 Enroute	Dinner #3 in Melaka Tour Port Melaka (2hrs)
Sun 1/12 Melaka	Melaka City Tour (Excursion 3 hrs)	Lunch #2 on Tour 1 – 5 pm Melaka City Tour (4hrs)	Dinner #4 in Melaka Folk Dance (2hrs.)
Mon 1/13 Melaka/Sing	Melaka AM Tour (Excursion 3 hrs)	Lunch #3 Enroute in Johore Arrive in Singapore	Dinner on your own
Tue 1/14	Gardens by the Bay, Treetop, Flower Dome, Rain Forest. (Excursion 2 hrs)	Lunch on your own Marina Bay Sands, Science Museum, Helix Bridge (4hrs)	Dinner on your own – Marina Square 7:45 pm Light Show
Wed 1/15 Full Tour Bukit Timah	9:30 -11:30 am Lect., Post-Colonial Singapore. (Turnbull, pp.225-258) (2 hrs)	Lunch on your own 2– 6 pm WWII sites, Old Ford Factory Singapore Zoo (4 hrs)	Dinner on your own 7 - 9 Night Safari (2 hrs)
Thu 1/16 Little India	9:30 -11:30 am, Lect.: The Future. (Tan, pp.168 – 182) (2 hrs)	1– 5 pm Lunch #4 with Migrant Workers – Visit Health Serve Eurasian Heritage Center (4hrs)	Dinner on your own Joo Chiat/Katong area (1hr)
Fri 1/17	9:30 -11:30 am, Reflection (2 hrs)	Lunch on your own Visit to Orchard Road	Dinner on your own “Singapore Treats”
Sat 1/18	AM Flight Home	Arrive same day	
Total: 46 Contact hrs	18 hrs. contact; 8 hrs Excursion = 4hrs contact	36 hrs Excursion = 18 hrs contact	12 hrs Excursion = 6 hrs contact