

HL2009 Southeast Asian Literature and Culture

CHERYL JULIA LEE

Illustration: Stephen Prestado

HL2009 is a general introduction to contemporary Southeast Asian literary works, films, and visual art. Each work will be studied in its historical context, allowing students to develop a broad understanding of Southeast Asian history and to trace transnational aesthetic developments; as well as in its particularity, as an autonomous work of art. This will allow students to develop an appreciation for the sheer diversity in Southeast Asian artistic output. Some thematic concerns discussed include cultural memory, class inequality, nationalism, religion, gender, and sexuality.

We will be reading texts that deal with challenging material including sexual violence. Please take this into consideration when deciding if you would like to enroll in this module.

Syllabus

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Southeast Asian Poetry

Week 3-4: Tash Aw, *The Harmony Silk Factory* (2005)*

Week 5-6: Nick Joaquin, "A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino" (1950)

Week 7: Y. B. Mangunwijaya, *Durga/Umayi* (1991)*

Recess Week

Week 8: Y. B. Mangunwijaya, *Durga/Umayi* (1991)

Week 9-10: Merlinda Bobis, *Fish-Hair Woman* (2012)*

Week 11: Rithy Panh, *S21: The Khmer Rouge Death Machine* (2003)

Week 12: Conclusion

Week 13: *Deepavali Public Holiday* (No class)

*Please purchase.

Assessment

10% Participation

15% Short Essay

35% Creative Project

40% Final Essay

*The use of generative AI is permitted in this module. Advice regarding its use will be given in Week 1.

