

# HL2009

## SOUTHEAST ASIAN LITERATURE & CULTURE



**PANH RITHY**

***S-21: THE KHMER ROUGE KILLING MACHINE (2003)***

**TASH AW**

***THE HARMONY SILK FACTORY (2005)***

**ASH MAYFAIR**

***THE THIRD WIFE (2018)***

**APICHATPONG WEERASETHAKUL**

***UNCLE BOONMEE WHO CAN RECALL HIS PAST LIVES  
(2010)***

**MERLINDA BOBIS**

***FISH-HAIR WOMAN (2012)***

**Y.B. MANGUNWIJAYA**

***DURGA/UMAYI (1991)***

**+ POETRY AND SHORT STORY EXCERPTS**

\*You need to have copies of all the novels. Please purchase Durga/Umayi from NUS Press.  
Some of the films will be made available via the library; the rest can be found online.

Image source: <https://nuspress.nus.edu.sg/products/durga-umayi-witch-goddess-a-novel>

HL2009 offers you an introduction to the diverse cultures in Southeast Asia through the study of its artistic output. Each work will be studied in its historical context, allowing you 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 enable you to develop an appreciation for the sheer diversity in Southeast Asian artistic output. Some thematic concerns we will be discussing include cultural memory, class inequality, nationalism, religion, gender, and sexuality.



Vợ ba

You will study a variety of contemporary Southeast Asian texts (prose, poetry, drama, and visual arts) from countries such as Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam; and through them, learn to be conversant with the history and culture of Southeast Asia. This course also aims to equip with the necessary vocabulary to respond to a range of artistic mediums.

HL<sub>2009</sub> is a writing-intensive course that focuses on honing your analytical and writing skills: you will be asked to write short responses to the various texts as well as an extended essay, for which you will be given extensive feedback. You will learn to develop coherent critical written arguments about the texts studied.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify key trends in Southeast Asian cultural production
2. Discuss how the texts studied in class reflect the historical, political, and social concerns of the region
3. Describe the effects of particular genres as they pertain to the specific texts
4. Raise critically informed questions about the texts studied
5. Develop coherent arguments on the basis on your own responses to the work
6. Evaluate literary-critical sources and employ those sources in a manner appropriate to the discipline in your own work

# ASSESSMENT

**100% CA**

Assessment components will be confirmed  
in Week1.

" . . . The most beautiful part of your body / is where it's headed.  
& remember, / loneliness is still time spent / with the world."

— Ocean Vuong



Cheryl Julia Lee  
SHHK-03-73  
cheryl.lee@ntu.edu.sg  
Student Hours: by appointment