Instructor: Dreux Montgomery

Course Description:
This course offers a unique and exciting opportunity to study the history and culture of the Chinese diaspora in SE Asia. For centuries Chinese immigrant communities have played (and continued to play) an important role in the economics, politics and culture in the countries of SE Asia. Students in this course will learn first-hand some of the history and culture of Chinese living in SE Asia, when and why they came, and the nature of their interactions with other members of the SE Asian cultures of which they are a part. As part of this process we will also study some of the histories of the countries visited to help contextualize the Chinese experience.

Places to be visited in 2011-12 include:

Various sites in and around Hanoi, Hoi An, Ho Chi Minh City, Phnom Penh, Angkor. We will also visit Chinese communities where students will be asked to interview residents about some aspect of their lives. These questions will be formulated with the assistance of the instructor.

Course Requirements:
All participants are strongly encouraged to take a least one course in SE Asian history prior to taking this class. If that proves impracticable students are encouraged to read the following works prior to the class:


And the relevant portions concerning Vietnam and Cambodia of:


I. Readings:
Students will select two of the following readings, one from each category:

Category 1: Vietnam


**Category 2: Cambodia**


II. Written Requirements
A. Before departure to SE Asia, each student will prepare a list of 10 questions on a single theme to ask the inhabitants of the villages we visit. All questions need to be vetted by the instructor.
B. In SE Asia, each student will maintain two journals, one that records new understandings of the material we cover based on lectures and site visits, and one that records personal experiences, revelations, and reflections. Each journal must have a minimum of seven entries; each entry must be at least one page in length and must be legible. Lecture Notes will not be accepted in lieu of actual journal entries!
C. Upon return from SE Asia, each student will write a 5 to 7 page report on his/her own investigation into contemporary village life. This paper will follow academic conventions, and must reference at least three sources.

III - Oral presentations
At appropriate times during our trip, each student will be asked, along with one or two classmates, to make two 30-minute oral presentations to the class, one presentation on each of the works selected by that student.

When presenting their reports, students should begin with basic information: the author’s name, date of publication, and name of publishing company. What follows should be an analysis of the author’s argument, and an assessment of whether or not the author succeeds in making a convincing case. Student presenters will be expected to answer questions from their classmates.

Some Notes on Expectations
• Behavior. As guests of various universities in particular and of the countries we visit in general, I expect all students to behave appropriately at all times.
• Food. We will be eating local food very often. Sometimes the fare will seem unfamiliar and perhaps unappetizing. Please approach this as a new experience and sample everything with good grace.

Grading:
Attendance and Participation: 5%
Book Reports: 40%
Journals: 20%
Fieldwork report: 35%