Southeast Asia Studies

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The Council on Southeast Asia Studies offers an interdisciplinary program that brings together faculty and students sharing an interest in Southeast Asia and contributes to the curriculum with language courses, a weekly seminar series, periodic conferences, cultural events, and special lectures. Yale maintains extensive library and research collections on Southeast Asia, including online archives of periodicals and newspapers from all parts of the region.

Yale does not offer a degree in Southeast Asia studies, but majors in any department may consult with Council faculty regarding a senior essay on a Southeast Asian topic, and in certain circumstances students who have a special interest in the region may consider a Special Divisional Major. Students interested in pursuing field research or language study in Southeast Asia may apply to the Council for summer fellowship support.

Courses featuring Southeast Asian content are offered within a variety of departments each year including Anthropology, Environmental Studies, History, History of Art, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, and the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. A list of courses for the current year can be obtained through the Council office or Website.

Language instruction at all levels is offered in two Southeast Asian languages, Indonesian and Vietnamese. Other Southeast Asian languages may be available in any given year via video conference through the Yale Shared Course Initiative. Check the SEAS Language Studies page on the Southeast Asia Website for updated information. The Council on Southeast Asia Studies supports language tables and independent study in other Southeast Asian languages through the Directed Independent Language Study Program.

Faculty Associated with the Council on Southeast Asia Studies

Professors Michael R. Dove (Forestry & Environmental Studies), J. Joseph Errington (Anthropology), Benedict Kiernan (History), James Scott (Political Science), Frederick Wherry (Sociology), Mimi Yiengpruksawan (History of Art)

Associate Professor Erik Harms (Anthropology)

Senior Lecturers Carol Carpenter (Forestry & Environmental Studies, Anthropology), Amity Doolittle (Forestry & Environmental Studies)

Curator Ruth Barnes (Art Gallery)

Senior Lector II Quang Phu Van

Senior Lector Indriyo Sukmono

Lector Dinny Risri Aletheiani

Indonesian Courses

* INDN 110a, Elementary Indonesian I Indriyo Sukmono
An introductory course in standard Indonesian with emphasis on developing communicative skills through a systematic survey of grammar and graded exercises. Credit only on completion of INDN 120. Enrollment limited to 15 per section. L1 1½ Course cr

* INDN 120b, Elementary Indonesian II Indriyo Sukmono
Continuation of INDN 110. Introduction to reading, leading to mastery of language patterns, essential vocabulary, and basic cultural competence. After INDN 110 or equivalent. Enrollment limited to 15 per section. L2 1½ Course cr

* INDN 130a, Intermediate Indonesian I Dinny Risri Aletheiani
Continued practice in colloquial Indonesian conversation and reading and discussion of texts. After INDN 120 or equivalent. Limited enrollment. L3 1½ Course cr

* INDN 140b, Intermediate Indonesian II Dinny Risri Aletheiani
Continuation of INDN 130. After INDN 130 or equivalent. Limited enrollment. L4 1½ Course cr

* INDN 150a or b, Advanced Indonesian I Staff
Development of advanced fluency through discussion of original Indonesian sociohistorical, political, and literary texts and audiovisual sources. Extension of cultural understanding of Indonesia. Prerequisite: INDN 140 or equivalent. May not be taken after INDN 153. L5

* INDN 160b, Advanced Indonesian II Indriyo Sukmono
Continuation of INDN 150. Prerequisite: INDN 150 or equivalent. L5

* INDN 170a, Advanced Indonesian: Special Topics Dinny Risri Aletheiani
Continuation of INDN 160. Students advance their communicative competence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Use of Indonesian book chapters, Web pages, printed and electronic articles, social networking posts, newsgroups, and letters. Prerequisite: INDN 160.
* INDN 180b, Research and Creative Project on Indonesia  Dinny Risri Aletheiani
Continuation of INDN 170. Advancement in students’ competence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Reading materials include book chapters, Web sites, print and electronic articles, e-mail messages, blogs, and social networking posts. Prerequisite: INDN 170.

* INDN 470a and INDN 471b, Independent Tutorial  Dinny Risri Aletheiani
For students with advanced Indonesian language skills who wish to engage in concentrated reading and research on material not otherwise offered in courses. The work must be supervised by an adviser and must terminate in a term paper or its equivalent. After INDN 160. Permission to enroll requires submission of a detailed project proposal and its approval by the program adviser.

Vietnamese Courses

VIET 110a, Elementary Vietnamese I  Quang Phu Van
Students acquire basic working ability in Vietnamese, developing skills in speaking, listening, writing (Roman script), and reading. Discussion of aspects of Vietnamese society and culture. Credit only on completion of VIET 120. Intended for students with no previous knowledge of Vietnamese.  L1  RP  1½ Course cr

VIET 120b, Elementary Vietnamese II  Quang Phu Van
Continuation of VIET 110.  L2  RP  1½ Course cr

* VIET 132a, Accelerated Vietnamese  Quang Phu Van
This course follows a community-based language model designed for heritage students or speakers who comprehend and speak informal Vietnamese on topics related to everyday situations but do not read or write Vietnamese. Study of interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational communicative modes, as well as standard foreign language education (communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities). Students will engage with Vietnamese American communities in New Haven and beyond. Admits to VIET 140.  L3

* VIET 142b, Accelerated Vietnamese II  Quang Phu Van
An accelerated course designed for heritage students who wish to build a higher level of proficiency and develop sociocultural competence in speaking, reading, and writing. Topics include health care, rituals, community, linguistic landscape, education, mass communication, literature, history, values, and traditional and pop cultures. VIET 132 or equivalent.  L4

VIET 150a, Advanced Vietnamese  Quang Phu Van
Students improve their fluency and accuracy in Vietnamese and solidify their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Topics include social, economic, and cultural practices, gender issues, notions of power, and taboo. Prerequisite: VIET 140 or equivalent.  L5

* VIET 470a and VIET 471b, Independent Tutorial  Quang Phu Van
For students with advanced Vietnamese language skills who wish to engage in concentrated reading and research on material not otherwise offered in courses. The work must be supervised by an adviser and must terminate in a term paper or its equivalent. Permission to enroll requires submission of a detailed project proposal and its approval by the program adviser.