

Rooted in Place: History, Biodiversity, and Environment in Southeast Asia

ASN/BIO 6750; GH and CSYM; NLAB SCI or HUM; 4 credits

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January 3rd - 23rd, 2017

Destinations: Tainan, Taiwan (2D/2N), Kenting, Taiwan (2D/2N), Taipei, Taiwan (5D/5N), Singapore (9D/8N)

Course fee: \$3400, all inclusive

Course Description:

This travel course will examine the historical role of biodiversity and environment in the development of both Taiwan and Singapore. In the case of Taiwan, this biodiversity was crucial to its development as a source of raw materials and its development as a state. In Singapore, the relationship between historical development and the biodiversity of the area it encompassed had a more antagonistic nature since independence in 1965. In contemporary Taiwan and Singapore, that original relationship has changed. This class will examine both the past as well as contemporary interplay between these forces. Both Taiwan and Singapore have developed, during the modern period, in relation to their location. Each had something to offer colonial powers because of their particular positions. What they had to offer varied according to the colonizer and the historical period. Biodiversity and conservation were often overlooked in Singapore in favor of rapid urbanization, whereas in Taiwan these factors were part of the attraction. Presently, in the context of the modern environmental movement, biodiversity has come to play a very different role in both regions' developmental process. This course will look at the historical progression of these changes over time. Naturally, cultural attitudes concerning the relationship between humans and the environment will be examined as well.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will be able to articulate the relationship between each region's biodiversity and its historical development.
- Students will be able to use scientific terminology in the identification of flora and fauna present within the varied ecosystems in each of these countries, how these species are interrelated, and how these have changed over time.
- Students will be able to articulate cultural attitudes towards the relationship of humans and their environment.

Assignments:

- Required attendance at course orientation sessions in Fall 2016
- Pre-readings about each country's culture, history, and biodiversity in addition to completion of writing assessments for each reading
- Reflective journal entries after visiting each site
- Scientific notebook with photo figures comparing biodiversity across the region

Required course materials: Notebook or journal, pens or pencils, access to digital articles. A suggested packing list will be distributed during the final orientation session.

Grading:

30% of the grade will come from journal entries and reflective writing. 70% of the grade will be based on active participation (this means engaging in discussion with your peers and professors).

Ground Rules:

- Each participant must be respectful of the culture and be open to new experiences, especially in matters of food and drink.
- Each participant needs to have reasonable street smarts and travel smarts when it comes to avoiding certain situations (eg. alcohol, bar fights); if any participant engages in any criminal activity (eg. drug possession) then he or she will have to deal with the local criminal justice system and the US Consulate. Please be advised that the laws are much more strict in Singapore (eg. no jaywalking, no drugs, no food or drink on public transportation, no chewing gum, etc.).
- We will use public transportation; faculty and students will have to carry all their own belongings for distances up to a mile, so they should pack accordingly (Consult the suggested packing list on the course website).
- Being in the right place at the right time is each participant's responsibility, and the rest of the group will not wait for stragglers. Every participant should have facility with maps and timetables, and if he or she misses a rendezvous he or she must be able to get back to where we are staying.
- Use common sense to prevent undesirable consequences (Unprotected sex? Drinking to excess? Participants bear sole responsibility.)
- Be prepared to participate in a buddy system.
- Let Prof. Udry or Prof. Henle know immediately if you have any allergies or medical conditions that may affect your participation in the course (e.g., peanut allergies can be a real problem because Asian food often involves peanuts).
- Professors Udry and Henle reserve the right to terminate the participation of any member of the course for violating these terms of participation or otherwise interfering with other members' ability to enjoy and satisfy the requirements of the course.

Proposed Daily Itinerary

1/3	<p>Meet at Carthage in TWC Lobby BY 9:15AM, if taking the shuttle. We will be leaving at 9:30AM SHARP</p> <p>Everyone needs to meet at ORD at 10:30AM at the Cathay Pacific departure counters (#25-28) at terminal 5 (International Terminal).</p> <p>2:05 PM - Depart ORD on Cathay Pacific CX807</p>
1/4	10:55PM - Depart Hong Kong on Cathay Pacific CX408
1/5	<p>12:30AM - Arrive Taipei, Overnight travel to Tainan by bus</p> <p>Tour Tainan temples and sights (See Gogle Map; link has been previously sent)</p>
1/6	Spoonbill reserve, Anping area and free time late in day
1/7	Travel to Kenting, with stop at the Museum of Marine Biology
1/8	Free Day in Kenting (maybe snorkeling, otherwise a walk around the preserve and free time for students to explore on their own.)
1/9	<p>Bullet train to Taipei</p> <p>Check in to Chientan and begin touring around the city. (visit to Longshan Temple, Snake Alley, and Shilin night market)</p>
1/10	Downtown Taipei SYS, CKS and Taipei 101
1/11	Danshui (Tamsui River) and Danshui Mangrove; end day with Peitou?
1/12	Tea Plantation and Gondola
1/13	Free day in Taipei (or NPM in the morning and free afternoon)
1/14	<p>7:05AM travel to Hong Kong on Cathay Pacific CX465 and CX806</p> <p>Take subway to Beary Best Hostel, 16 Upper Cross St, Singapore 058331</p> <p>Group dinner at a hawker center (Maxwell Road) & orientation to neighborhood</p>
1/15	<p>AM - Chinatown neighborhood (Buddha Tooth & Relic Temple/Museum; Sri Mariamman Temple)</p> <p>Group lunch at Red Star Dim Sum</p> <p>PM - International Lion Dance Competition</p>
1/16	<p>10 AM - Masjid Jamae Chulia Mosque (wear appropriate clothing)</p> <p>PM - Singapore National Museum (~3-4 hours)</p>
1/17	<p>9 AM - Water Reclamation visitor center (travel via bus)</p> <p>PM - Little India neighborhood & group dinner at Banana Leaf Apolo Restaurant.</p>
1/18	All day - Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve (travel via bus @ 8:15AM). Appropriate clothing required – pants and closed shoes, no sandals or shorts. Sunscreen, umbrella, insect repellent & hats recommended.

1/19	AM - Asian Civilizations Museum PM - several possibilities: Botanic Gardens, Chinese/Japanese Gardens, Haw Par Villa, Baba House, etc.
1/20	All day - Pulau Ubin National Park/Chek Jawa (travel via bus @ 8:15AM and boat)
1/21	9 AM - Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery (travel via bus). PM - Singapore City Gallery (Urban Redevelopment Authority)
1/22	Free day & late evening departure. Some ideas (in no particular order): Chinese/Japanese Gardens, Arab Street/Haji Lane, Singapore Zoo, Jurong Bird Park, Singapore Art Museum, Haw Par Villa, Bugis Market, Orchard Road, Singapore Walks, Sentosa, Joo Chiat, Peranakan Museum, Baba House, Botanic Gardens, Clarke Quay.
1/23	1:15AM depart Singapore on Cathay Pacific CX714; Travel to Chicago via Hong Kong (CX806 at 11:50AM out of Hong Kong). Arrive at O'Hare at 12:25PM on Monday, January 23rd.

Hostel Addresses and Contact Info

Tainan: January 5th - 7th

WOW Tainan International Hostel
No.7, Lane 90, Section 1, Fuqian Road
Tainan, Taiwan 700
Tel: +886-6-2225585
<http://www.wowtainan.com/>

Kenting: January 7th - 9th

Kenting Youth Activity Center
No. 17, Kending Rd, Hengchun Township, Pingtung County, Taiwan 946
Phone: +886 8 886 1221
<http://kenting.cyh.org.tw/>

Taipei: January 9th - 14th

Chientan Youth Activity Center
111 Taipei No.16, Sec. 4, Jhongshan N. Rd.
Phone: +886 2 2885 2151
<http://chientan.cyh.org.tw/>

Singapore: January 14th - 22nd

Beary Best! Hostel
16 Upper Cross St, Singapore 058331
+65 6222 4957
<https://www.abearygoodhostel.com/bearybest/>