UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Cultures and Societies of Asia

2223-2-F0101R024

Course title

Cultures and societies of Asia

Topics and course structure

The course will deal with two fundamental aspects in the identity-process of modern, local and/or national societies in Southeast Asia: practices of welfare and work relationships. THanks to Erica Bornstein's theorisation on gift and philanthropy in India, poverty, work-related migration and notions of work will be analysed for the whole of Southeast Asia and, more specifically, in the case of Indonesia.

Objectives

The course aims to develop basic knowledge and understanding of welfare relationships in Asia, with a special focus on Southeast Asia.

The students will be required to connect the different parts of the course and develop a personal standpoint.

This will enable them to use the Asian experience as a general tool in the analysis of similar phenomena in other parts of the world.

Methodologies

Front lessons. Discussion of texts, video or otherwise produced materials. Autonomous suggestions coming from the students are welcome. Depending on the availability, a few researchers will be invited to present their researches.

Online and offline teaching materials

The course relies on an active collaboration between the teacher and the students both in reading and discussing shared texts and in evaluating original suggestions coming from the students. According to different inputs coming, among others, from the actualities of Southeast Asia, some materials will be made available online. THe course website is to be considered as the main reference.

Programme and references for attending students

1) Bornstein, E. (2012). *Disquieting gifts: humanitarianism in New Delhi*. Stanford University Press. OBBLIGATORIO PER TUTTI

2) Bolotta, Giuseppe, 2021. *Belittled Citizens*: *The Cultural Politics of Childhood on Bangkok's Margins,* NIAS Press*.*

3) Vignato, Silvia. 2020. *Le figlie delle catastrofi. Un'etnografia della crescita nella ricostruzione di Aceh.* Milano, Ledizioni.

E UNO DEI TESTI A SCELTA:

Lindquist, J.A. 2009. The anxieties of mobility. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

O IN ALTERNATIVA

Smith, Catherine, (2018), *Resilience and the Localisation of Trauma in Aceh*, Indonesia, NUS Press.

O IN ALTERNATIVA

Nooteboom, G. (2016). *Forgotten People: Poverty, Risk and Social Security in Indonesia* (p. 324). Brill.

O IN ALTERNATIVA

Kloos, D. (2017). *Becoming better Muslims: Religious authority and ethical improvement in Aceh, Indonesia*. Princeton University Press.

Vignato, S., ed. (2017*). Dreams of Prosperity: Inequality and Integration in Southeast Asia*, Chiang Mai, Silkworm/EFEO

Programme and references for non-attending students

see section "attending students".
Non attending students are STRONGLY ADVISED to acquire a sounder picture of the area studies through the

study of materials available on the course homepage as well as of an integrative text such as
Church, Peter. 2022 (6th ed.) A Short History of Southeast Asia. London, Wiley.

Assessment methods

Oral exam. Assessment of the students' knowledge of the texts included in the reference list as well as of the general frames explained during the lessons (for students who have attended the course). A good command is required of the basic elements of the region.

Office hours

tuesday at 12. to be confirmed

Programme validity

two years

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | GENDER EQUALITY | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS