

DRAFT – All information is tentative and subject to change.

## Syllabus

AAS/HIS 340 Topics in Asian History

### ***Ethnicity, Pluralism and Nationhood in Singapore***

Frank Shih, Ph.D., Director/Instructor

Travel Period: Mon. Jan. 1 – Thurs. Jan. 22, 2025

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Singapore is often touted for its exemplary economic development attributed to the cultural contributions of diverse populations and guided by government policies that regulates ethnic representation in housing, education, civil service and other forms of socioeconomic participation. The study tour will explore the melding of populations against the backdrop of British imperialism, post-colonial nation-building, Chinese and Indian diaspora, globalization and international trade networks. The class will visit heritage sites, museums, places of worship and historic landmarks of the three major populations of Chinese, Malays, Tamil (Indians). Additional excursions include popular sightseeing attractions. Through the experience, students will gain an understanding of the factors that transformed Singapore from a trading village to a 21<sup>st</sup> Century model for nation-building.

This course is offered as both AAS 340 and HIS 340. *DEC*: J, *SBC*: SBS+, EXP+. 3 credits

#### GOAL

To survey the demographic, social and cultural diversity of present-day Singapore and the historical impact of government policies and administrative practices on the daily lives of its multi-ethnic population.

#### LEARNING OBJECTIVES (LO)

LO1: Understand the historical events that have shaped the peoples and political economy of Singapore.

LO2: Distinguish between different ethnic populations that contribute to Singapore culture and society.

LO3: Evaluate government policies and cultural practices and their impact on relations between ethnic groups.

LO4: Identify major differences in language, religion, local commerce and cuisine among the population.

#### COURSE DELIVERY

This is a hybrid study abroad course. In addition to the two-week study-tour, there will be online assignments prior to and after the travel period. There will be face-to-face lectures while the group is in Singapore by various speakers, museum docents and heritage site guides. The course is delivered in the D2L Brightspace learning management system (LMS). Students must be mindful of all course expectations, deliverables and due dates. All assignments will use internet technologies. See the “Technical Requirements” section for more information.

#### REQUIRED TEXT

Barr, Michael D. (2019) *Singapore: A Modern History*. London: Bloomsbury Academic. ISBN: 978-1-35013-387-7.

#### Recommended Texts

Eye Witness Travel: Top 10 Singapore. (2018) Great Britain: Penguin Random House. ISBN: 978-1-4654-6782-9.

Turnbull, C.M. (2009) *A History of Modern Singapore, 1819-2005*. Singapore: National University of Singapore Press. ISBN: 978-9971-69-343-5

#### REQUIRED FILMS (Available online)

History of Singapore by Discovery - Part 1, Raffle's Little Child. 47:30 Singapore Academy of Corporate Management, Discovery Channel Documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O12Lwol3iaY&list=RDLVO12Lwol3iaY&index=1>

History of Singapore by Discovery - Part 2, Accidental Nation 47:30 Singapore Academy of Corporate Management, Discovery Channel Documentary. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Tl0x-ak8ok&list=RDLVO12LwoI3iaY&index=2>

History of Singapore by Discovery - Part 3 Lion City: Asian Tiger 47:30. Singapore Academy of Corporate Management, Discovery Channel Documentary.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n19LivM\\_Qm0&list=PLBEE3AE6F2E4FAAA8&index=3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n19LivM_Qm0&list=PLBEE3AE6F2E4FAAA8&index=3)

City of the Future: Singapore 44:24 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xi6r3hZe5Tg&t=171s>

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Pre-Departure Essay I (20% of the course grade) Based on the film History of Singapore Part I, Part II and *Singapore: A Modern History*, Prologue (pp. xviii-xix), Ch. 1 (pp. 1-11) In 1000 words or more describe the events and people that make up the “Singapore Story”. How is this narrative critiqued by Michael Barr in his text? Do you agree? Deadline: 12/17, 2 weeks (Saturday) prior to departure.

B. Pre-Departure Essay II (20% of the course grade) Based on the film History of Singapore Part III and *Singapore: A Modern History*, Ch. 3 (pp. 33-63), Ch. 5 (pp. 87-118). In 1000 words or more discuss the impact of “location” in the “Singapore Story”. How does Michael Barr critique the standard narrative? Deadline: Saturday 12/24, 1 week (Saturday) prior to departure.

C. Pre-Departure Essay III (20% of the course grade) Based on the film Waterfront Cities of the world: Singapore and *Singapore: A Modern History*, Ch.7 and Ch. 8 (pp. 141-201). In 1000 words or more, describe how Singapore has addressed the social issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Has it been successful? Deadline: Saturday, 12/31 prior to departure.

D. Journal - 20% of the course grade. Submit a day-to-day journal of your experiences and personal reflections of the trip. Provide reactions to the places and people you encountered and if they influence your view of the country and pluralism. The minimal length is 2400 words (12 pages). Deadline: 2nd Sunday after returning.

E. Attendance - 20%. All activities on the itinerary are mandatory. Students must remain with the group during the entire travel period. Exception must be approved by the instructor in advance of the tour departure. Unexcused or unapproved absences may be subject to grade reduction and/or immediate expulsion from the tour at the sole discretion of the professor.

## SUBMISSION PROCESS AND DEADLINES

All papers and the journal must be submitted by 11:59 pm on the day specified. The assignments must be uploaded through Brightspace. Assignments will not be accepted by email attachment or hard copy. Late submission of assignments will incur a minimum of 10% deduction in the final grade of the paper. Additional points may be deducted for papers received more than 12 hours late.

Assignments that violate academic integrity are subject to disciplinary procedures of the University that at minimum disqualifies the submission. (See below for more information.)

## GRADING RUBRIC

Content (40%): The topic/focus should be adequately examined and reviewed.

Analysis (40%): The topic area should be critically analyzed, evaluated and assessed. The thesis of the paper should be addressed and arguments and other ideas adequately synthesized.

Composition (10%): Information and ideas should be organized and clearly expressed. The mechanics of writing--grammar, punctuation, and sentence structures—should be error-free. The final research paper must include in-text citations and bibliography following APA format.

Originality (10%): The reports and research paper should reflect the individualized inquiry, creative ideas and imaginative concepts of the student.

**Student Accessibility Support Center (SASC):** If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact the Student Accessibility Support Center, 128 ECC Building, (631)

632-6748, or at [sasc@Stonybrook.edu](mailto:sasc@Stonybrook.edu). They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and the Student Accessibility Support Center. For procedures and information go to the following website: <https://ehs.stonybrook.edu/programs/fire-safety/emergency-evacuation/evacuation-guide-people-physical-disabilities> and search Fire Safety and Evacuation and Disabilities.

**Academic Integrity:** Each student must pursue their academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty members are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Academic dishonesty includes using material generated by artificial intelligence tools for coursework without instructor authorization.

For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Judiciary website at [https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic\\_integrity/policies\\_procedures/index.php](https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/policies_procedures/index.php)

**Critical Incident Management:** Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.

**Course Evaluation:** Each semester Stony Brook University asks students to provide feedback on their courses and instructors through an online course evaluation system. The course evaluation results are used by the individual faculty, department chairs and deans to help faculty enhance their teaching skills and are used as part of the personnel decision for faculty promotion and tenure.

Stony Brook contracts with an outside vendor to administer the surveys and all results are completely anonymous. No individually identifiable data are ever reported back to the university or instructor. Students can view all faculty ratings by logging into Classie: <https://classie-evs.stonybrook.edu/>

**Academic Success & Tutoring Center:** Free academic support services including one-on-one tutoring, small group tutoring, academic success coaching, and public speaking seminars are available to all undergraduate students. Learn more about these services and additional campus resources by visiting [www.stonybrook.edu/tutoring](http://www.stonybrook.edu/tutoring).

**Electronic Communication:** Stony Brook University's email and especially email sent via Brightspace is one of the ways the faculty officially communicates with you for this course. **It is your responsibility to make sure that you read your email in your official University email account.** For most students that is Google Apps for Education (<http://www.stonybrook.edu/mycloud>), but you may verify your official Electronic Post Office (EPO) address at <http://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/checking-or-changing-your-mail-forwarding-address-in-the-epo>.

If you choose to forward your official University email to another off-campus account, faculty members are not responsible for any undeliverable messages to your alternative personal accounts. You can set up Google Mail forwarding using these DoIT-provided instructions found at <http://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/setting-up-mail-forwarding-in-google-mail>.

If you need technical assistance, please contact Client Support at (631) 632-9800 or [supportteam@stonybrook.edu](mailto:supportteam@stonybrook.edu).