

Keio University Syllabus and Timetable

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA : PAST AND PRESENT

Lecturer(s)	CHANDRA, ELIZABETH
Credit(s)	2
Academic Year/Semester	2024 Spring
Day/Period	Fri.5
Campus	Mita
Classroom	452
Class Format	Face-to-face classes (conducted mainly in-person)
Registration Number	73267
Faculty/Graduate School	INTERNATIONAL CENTER
Year Level	2, 3, 4
Grade Type	S, A, B, C, D
Course Description	A course to aim to examine the intersections of involuntary labor, transnational migration and sexual exchange, which today fall under the category of "human trafficking."
K-Number	CIN-CO-00223-212-08

[▼ Detail](#)
Course Contents/Objectives/Teaching Method/Intended Learning Outcome

This course examines the intersection of involuntary labor, transnational migration and sexual exchange, which falls under the broad category of "human trafficking." Despite its recent urgency (United Nations' Palermo Protocol, 2000), historical inquiries show that commercial sexual labor also existed in the past in different forms under different guises. This course situates the contemporary human trafficking on a single continuum with historically similar practices, some of which deemed "indigenous" in Asia. While our inquiries will sample cases from various parts of Asia, emphasis is given to studies that deal with the experience of sexual exchange in southeast Asia. This is because southeast Asia holds a double role as supplier of massive transnational migration for sexual labor, as well as site where the sex trade takes place extensively.

In this course we will look at traditional forms of servitude and sexual exchange in east and southeast Asia, as well as the contemporary transnational trade of women for the sex industry. We will read historiographic and ethnographic accounts on slavery, dependency, and other forms of servitude in Asia as a necessary background to our examination of contemporary practices of using women for sexual services. We will look at the social and economic conditions that gave rise to the sex industry in the past, such as colonial establishment and military mobilization, and probe into the so-called "white slave" trade that instigated the abolitionist movement by feminist and church groups in the early twentieth century. We will also consider practices that have been condemned as forms of human trafficking such as prostitution, hostessing, and international brokered marriage. We will close with a discussion on the possibility of agency by exploited women, which thus challenges the discourse of victimhood, and ask instead if sex-work can serve as a strategy of economic advancement, even liberation from oppressive gender norms.

This course has a strong emphasis on east and southeast Asia, and is recommended for students of Area Studies background.

Discussions, Debates

Preparatory Study

5 hours of reading and 8 hours of writing per week

Course Plan

Lesson 1

Introduction

Lesson 2

Indigenous Forms of Servitude

Lesson 3

Traditional Norms of Sexuality

Lesson 4

Slaves, Servants, Concubines

Lesson 5

Colonial Sex Trade

Lesson 6

White Slavery

Lesson 7

Wartime Sex Slavery

Lesson 8

Sex Trade in the New Economy

Lesson 9

The Trafficking Protocol

Lesson 10

The Institutionalization of Trafficking

Lesson 11

Benevolent Paternalism

Lesson 12

"Mail-order Brides"

Lesson 13

Lesson 14

On Victimhood

Other

Summary

Method of Evaluation

Weekly papers (50%)
Attendance (40%)
Class discussion (10%)

Reference Books

Anthony Reid (ed.), *Slavery, Bondage, and Dependency in Southeast Asia* (St. Martin's Press, 1983)
James Francis Warren, *Ah Ku and Karayuki-san: Prostitution in Singapore, 1870-1940* (Singapore University Press, 2003)
Thanh-dam Truong, *Sex, Money and Morality: Prostitution and Tourism in Southeast Asia* (Zed Books, 1990)
Maria Jaschok, *Concubines and Bondservants: A Social History* (Zed Books, 1988)
Maria Rosa Henson, *Comfort Woman: A Filipina's Story of Prostitution and Slavery Under the Japanese Military* (Rowman & Littlefield, 1999)
Kevin Bales, *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy* (University of California Press, 2012)
Rhacel Salazar Parreñas, *Illicit Flirtations: Labor, Migration, and Sex Trafficking in Tokyo* (Stanford University Press, 2011)
Viviana A. Zelizer, *The Purchase of Intimacy* (Princeton University Press, 2005)

Lecturer's Comments to Students

This course will be conducted in a seminar style, SO THE CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED TO 18 STUDENTS. To reserve a spot, please write to Professor Chandra (elizabeth.chandra@gmail.com) with information about why you intend to take this course, along with your student ID number.

Prospective students must also register on the "Course Registration" system during the 1st registration period. Instructor selections will be communicated on April 6 as the 1st registration confirmation.

Admitted students must attend the first class session on Friday, April 12. Important details regarding course requirements will be given during this session and will not be repeated.

Throughout the semester, students will be required to write a weekly short (one page) commentary on an assigned reading of approximately 30-50 pages. The weekly readings will be made available on Canvas. There will be no final exam.

Question/Comments

Attendance to the first class session is mandatory. Those unable to attend must contact the instructor (elizabeth.chandra@gmail.com) in advance.