SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES

DESCRIPTION  Berkeley offers over 30 courses, both undergraduate and graduate, that specialize in Southeast Asian studies. These courses are offered through many social sciences and humanities departments, most notably through the Department of South & Southeast Asian Studies. Established in 1972, the department's courses cover South and Southeast Asian civilizations, languages, literature, and religious studies. It confers the Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Philosophy in South and Southeast Asian studies.

The Center for Southeast Asia Studies (CSEAS), established in 1960 under the chairmanship of Professor Guy Pauker, enriches the study of Southeast Asia by sponsoring annual Southeast Asian studies conferences, lectures, and workshops throughout the academic year. These events provide numerous opportunities for international visitors to work with Berkeley faculty to promote interdisciplinary Southeast Asian research.

HISTORY  Following World War II, increasing public interest in Southeast Asia prompted American universities and scholars to establish and cultivate Southeast Asian studies teaching and research programs. This culminated in the Southeast Asia Studies Committee founding the Department of South & Southeast Asian Studies in 1954. Led by Professor Woodbridge Bingham and supported by Chancellor Clark Kerr, the committee founded the program with funding from the Ford Foundation. The committee's founding members included Professors Thomas C. Blaisdell, Jr., C. M. Li, Robert A. Scalapino, Denzel R. Carr, and Mary R. Haas, whose Thai-English Student's Dictionary (1964) remains the definitive work for Thai language studies. Early Southeast Asian studies courses were offered through the Departments of Anthropology, Geography, Linguistics, Oriental Languages, and Political Science.

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**SOUTH/SOUTHEAST ASIA LIBRARY**

**DESCRIPTION**  The South/Southeast Asia Library (S/SEAL) serves as the center for UC Berkeley’s South and Southeast Asia collections, housing a core collection of over 4,000 non-circulating items. This collection is particularly strong in the social sciences and humanities and features general and specialized reference and bibliographical materials, as well as high-use journals and newspapers.

S/SEAL features comfortable seating, quiet study spaces, electrical outlets, public computers, and significant usable tabletop space to best serve the information needs of our communities.

**HISTORY**  Beginning in the early 1950s, S/SEAL existed as the Reading Room of the joint Centers for South and Southeast Asia Studies. In the mid-1960s, the reading room, then located at 2538 Channing Way in Berkeley, attracted increasing numbers of students as South and Southeast Asia’s significance rose in the eyes of U.S. policymakers. In 1970, following the U.S. invasion of Cambodia, demonstrators targeted the Center for South and Southeast Asia Studies after one of its faculty members accepted grants from the Pentagon for counterinsurgency research. Consequently, previously existing plans to move into Doe Library were expedited and in September 1970, the collection was integrated into 438 Doe Library, becoming the South/Southeast Asia Library. Finally, in the summer of 1998, S/SEAL moved to its present location in 120 Doe Library.

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**SOUTHEAST ASIA COLLECTIONS**

**DESCRIPTION**  Historically, Berkeley’s Southeast Asia collections have been widely recognized as among the finest in the world. These collections are housed in multiple libraries across the Berkeley campus. These libraries include the South/Southeast Asia Library (S/SEAL), the Gardner (Main) Stacks, the Newspapers & Microforms Library, The Bancroft Library, the Media Resources Center, and various subject libraries. Low-use materials are stored off campus in the Northern Regional Library Facility (NRLF), located in Richmond, California.

Enhancing vernacular collections in Burmese, Chinese, Hmong, Indonesian, Khmer, Lao, Malay, Tagalog, Tamil, Tetum, Thai, and Vietnamese to support instructional and research goals, the Library collects materials through domestic and international commercial vendors, acquisitions trips, and exchange programs. With focuses on the social sciences and humanities, the collections consist of a variety of print and digital formats in both western and vernacular languages. The collections cover prewar and postwar periods of Southeast Asia and are quite influential in earlier western language publications on Burma, the Philippines, and Indochina since the pre-World War II period.

**HISTORY**  The Library of Congress Cooperative Acquisitions Program on Southeast Asia (CAP-SEA), based in Jakarta, Indonesia, has played a critical role in acquiring English and Southeast Asian vernacular materials since its inception in 1964, when it was referred to as the Public Law 480 Program. CAP-SEA has given Berkeley more than 200,000 items including monographs, government documents, serials, and audio-visual resources.

Bequests and gifts have also brought UC Berkeley myriad Southeast Asia special collections items. Among the many highlights of these collections are various Southeast Asian colonial administrators’ annual reports, the Indonesian Collection, and an extensive Philippines collection from the American and Republic periods.

Many special collections are the result of generous donations from private collectors. Professor David Prescott Barrows, the University of California’s 9th president (1919-1923) and the Philippines’ Secretary of Education in the first decade of the 20th century, donated a wealth of monographs, diaries, manuscripts, photographs, maps and papers, and numerous materials on the Philippines from 1900-1909. Former U.S. Consul Lawrence P. Briggs gave the university a substantial collection of items on Indonesia, Indochina, and the Malay Peninsula. The McFarland Family, missionaries in Siam, bestowed upon the university materials related to Siam from 1860 to 1950, including photographs of Cambodian and Siamese archaeological sites such as Angkor. The Swift Family donated a priceless collection of Buddhist palm leaf manuscripts from Thailand.