# Malay Culture and Society

Course Overview

# General Goal

To understand how various facets of the culture and social life of the Malays have been shaped and influenced by the forces of globalization and the forms of resistances that have emerged therein.



Globalization / The Wall Street Journal

# Enduring Understandings (1)

Free flow of information and technology and the rapid movement of peoples across borders have drastically changed the texture of local cultures and belief systems.



# Enduring Understandings (2)



The disintegration of traditional social fabrics and shared norms have encouraged people to fall back on religion for moral inspiration and social support.

# Enduring Understandings (3)

Globalization forces religions and cultures to compete to differentiate themselves. Fundamentalism reinforces this process of differentiation.



# Historical Sociology

- Religion and culture as manifested and contested in society, both in the near past and its enduring effects at present.

- Explanations of specific micro and macro forces that fashioned religion and culture in the Malay society.

# Time Frame

- Developments from 1980s onwards.

- The creation of a "network society" – a world of uncontrolled, confusing change, which compelled people to regroup around primary identities; religious, ethnic, territorial, [and] national (Castells 2000: 3).

# Countries to be Examined

- Malaysia – 55% of 22 million

- Singapore – 18% of 4 million

- Thailand – 4% of 60 million

- The 'Muslim Arc'

# Critical Content

Stereotypes and
Categorizations

Religious Authority

States' Management of Islam

Revivalisms and Reformisms

Living with Non-Muslims and Religious Conversion

Women's Place in Muslim Societies

Sacred Sites

Popular Cultures and Halal-mania

The New Media

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