

Name: Youmin Lee

College: Oakland Community College, Michigan

Discipline: English

Course Title and Number: Academic Literacy II/ENG 1060

Module Title: Culture, Corruption, and Cooperation--decriminalization of the global sex trade or not: The case of Cambodia and Thailand

Narrative Description of the Module

This module is designed to be used in conjunction of a whole book reading (*In a Rocket Made of Ice* by Gail Gutradt) in a developmental English reading and writing course. The issues of HIV/AIDS, poverty, sex trade/prostitution, human tragedy, resilience/hope, volunteering, generosity, conflicts and cooperation, etc. are explored and discussed in light of culture, human adversities, corruption, and cooperation. Assignments of reading and writing are worked out so that students not only study and deepen their understanding of various issues but also enhance their critical reading and writing skills to pass their exit portfolios to be advanced to another level of English course.

The goal for this module is to enhance students' academic reading and writing skills through engaging themselves in discussions and analysis of hotly debated controversial global issue of sex trade, poverty, cultural context, human tragedies, resilience, corruption via the prisms of human rights, conflicts, and cooperation. This goal is achieved through a number of strategies. First, students will be reading a book *In a Rocket Made of Ice*, which tells an uplifting and compelling story of volunteers, led by Wayne Dale Matthyse, a former Marine Corps medic who served during the Vietnam War, set up Wat Opot, a vibrant community for Children dying of/growing up with HIV/AIDS. This inspiring, first-hand account of personal sacrifices provides insights into a society where hope and resilience still prevail in face of grim life and chronic human tragedies. It also touches upon the controversies of social, economic, political issues involved in the human rights, public health, and sex work/trade around the world. It reshapes our conversation about the ongoing debate of whether or not we should criminalize sex work/trade around the world.

Students also read relevant essays, editorials, and books related to the complexities of the issues presented in the book. The extra readings aim at providing students with various different arguments and perspectives on the controversial topics. Students will be watching documentaries of sex trafficking/trade, particularly in Southeast Asia, particularly Cambodia and engage in discussions and express their opinions on issues related to their readings. Students will reflect and write journals, summaries, and argumentative essays to express their own positions on the issues.

The portfolio papers based on readings are evaluated and rated as part of exit assessment for students.

Educational Objectives of the Module

Upon completion of this module, the students are able to:

1. Understand the reading materials on issues related to human rights, poverty, cultural diversity, sex trade, and public health.
2. Connect and reflect on the ideas and perspectives of different opinions and positions on the issues.

3. Identify and discuss cases through research that demonstrate evidence and examples where talk of sex trade/work may seem to complicate issues of cultural diversity, poverty, and human rights. How would you respond to the argument that, in such cases, criminalizing sex trade/work will end up “undermining the fundamental human rights of vulnerable populations such as sex workers and the very efforts to improve public health” (Jodi Jacobson; Rachel Moranaug), a position taken by Amnesty International’s international council endorsing a new policy calling for the decriminalization of the global sex trade, which U.S opposes.

4. In light of prolonged debate around the world and diverse viewpoints, students learn to formulate their own position and opinion on the controversies.

5. Students learn to express their own ideas in coherent logical writing.

Lectures/Discussions Used to Implement the Module

Lectures/Discussions Activities:

1. Lectures on Cambodia, culture, society (country profile and statistics).
2. Lectures on academic reading and writing strategies.
3. Class and group discussions of the controversial issues.

Audio-Visuals Used to Implement the Module:

1. Maps of Southeast Asia and Cambodia.
2. Youtub documentaries on sex trafficking in Cambodia:
 - a) Sex Trafficking in Cambodia <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7MJVQJnHcM>
 - b) Sex traffickers prey on children in Cambodia <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXlg9bacB1o>
 - c) One woman's story of the horrors of human trafficking <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzBf3a2mDVw>
 - d) Sex Slaves THAILAND - Human Trafficking of 21st Century (Extraordinary Documentary) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xStk8VBV6Ac>

3. Videos

Gail Gutradt WCHS6 Interview: <http://www.wcsh6.com/videos/news/local/207/2014/09/16/15743553/>

Wat Opot Children’s Community: <https://vimeo.com/33276307>

36 Hours in Phnom Penh, NY Times Travel Article and Video (touristy):

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/07/travel/thingstodoin36hoursinphnompenh.html?_r=0

Investing in Human Capital in Cambodia: <https://youtu.be/CvGobQ30J7c>

Khmer Rouge Killings: <https://youtu.be/I4IZhm4RnaE>

The Most Evil Men in History (Khmer Rouge): <https://youtu.be/My5p4vk1sog>

Interview with Wayne Dale Matthyse: <https://youtu.be/JKI1AwcsNy8>

Man Out of Time, Wayne Dale Matthyse:

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1692881740/crossingthemekongdocumentary>

Student Reading/Writing/Experiential Assignments Used to Implement the Module:

1. Summaries, journals, portfolio essays based on reading of the book, relevant articles and documentaries.

2. Students connect and compare what they learn about Cambodia with U.S. situations and exchange ideas on the relevant topics espoused from their reading of the book and articles.

Student Evaluation/Testing Regarding the Module:

Evaluations are done on different levels with rubrics. Journals and summaries count 20% towards the final grade. Portfolio essays will be part of Exit Portfolio to be reviewed and rated by a committee for students to be advanced to higher level of English course at the end of the semester. Moreover, at the end of the semester, students will fill out a questionnaire, which includes feedback on this international module.

Resources/Reading List Used to Develop-Implement the Module:

“Cambodia: From Battlefield to Global Marketplace”. *Wharton School of University of Pennsylvania: Public Policy (Asia-Pacific)*, May 12, 2015.

Carmichael, Robert. “Cambodia Faces Key Challenges in Effort to Tackle HIV/AIDS”. *Voice of America*, July 21, 2014.

Chapple, Irene, et al. "Europe's Lost Children--Journeys of Pain, Despair--and Joy". *CNNWorld*, 2013.

Crothers, Lauren. “Women’s Rights Assessed by UN Committee in Geneva”. *The Cambodia Daily*, Oct. 8, 2013.

Jacobson, Jodi. “Criminalization of Sex Work in Cambodia Undermines HIV Prevention Efforts”. *RH Reality Check*, Oct. 15, 2010.

Moranaug, Rachel. "Buying Sex Should Not Be Legal". *New York Times*, Aug. 29, 2015. A19.

Gillet, Kit. "Cambodia Trains Social Workers to Curb Reliance on Foreign Aid". *New York Times*, June 18, 2013. <http://nyti.ms/11kQZn1>

Gutradt, Gail. *In a Rocket Made of Ice: The Story of Wat Opot, a Visionary Community for Children Growing Up with AIDS*. Vintage Books, New York: Random House 2015.

Gonzales, Albertor and David N. Strange. "What the Court Didn't Say". *New York Times*, July 18, 2013. A21.

“HIV/AIDS Kills 2,365 People in Cambodia in 2012”. *English.News CN*, Dec. 28, 2012.

“Married Women under Threat from HIV in Cambodia”. *Federation internationale des Societies de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge*, July 9, 2004. www.IFRC.org.

Menon, Anupana K. “Gendred Epidemic: Addressing the Specific Needs of Women Fighting HIV/AIDS in Cambodia”. *Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law & Justice*, Vol. 18 Issue 1, September, 2013.

Rodas, Albeiro. “Cambodian Scholar Suggests Pernicious Effects of Aid Dependence”. *Asian Correpondent*, Oct. 13, 2012.

ASIANCORRESPONDENT.COM/LATINCORRESPONDENT.COM 2015.

Singer, Peter. "Good Charity, Bad Charity". *New York Times*, Sunday Review, Aug. 11, 2013, 4.

Seiff, Abby. "Addressing Cambodia's Aid Dependence: Too Little Too Late?". *CogitASIA Staff*, Feb. 10, 2014. [cogitASIA CSIS Asia Policy Blog](http://cogitasia.org/2014/02/10/addressing-cambodias-aid-dependence-too-little-too-late/), 2015.

Seiff, Abby and Cheng Sokhorn. "Cambodia Makes Progress on Poverty, but It's Marginal". www.ucanews.com. Feb. 28, 2014.

Todd, William E. "Working towards an AIDS-Free Generation in Cambodia". Blogs. Usembassy.gov., Aug. 27, 2014.

Tolson, Michelle. "Working Cambodia Women 'Too Poor' to Have Children". *Inter Press Service News Agency (IPS)*, May 31, 2014.

U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. "Country Profile: Cambodia". www.PEPFAR.gov.

Watson, Lucy. "Easy Currency: Poverty and Abuse in Cambodia's 'Virginity Trade'". *The Independent*: July 9, 2014. www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/

Other Online Resources:

Websites

Resources for *In a Rocket Made of Ice*: RO/SF Resources in Google Drive Folder: OCC RO/SF Literacy Materials

Wat Opot Site: <http://www.watopot.org/>

The Wat Opot Partners in Compassion: <http://partnersincompassioncambodia.com/>

Sakka Foundation, supporting Wat Opot and other Cambodian Children in Need:

<http://www.sakkafoundation.org/>

Pictures of Wat Opot by Photographer Anthony Wallace (click on Thumbnails):

<http://www.anthonywallace.photography/watopot1/>

Anthony Wallace Picturebased Documentary Images and Text of Wat Opot:

<https://www.storehouse.co/stories/w176watopot>

Tim Pelling Photography of Wat Opot (click thumbnails or next at bottom left of page):

<http://www.pelling.com/watopot/>

Chris Sorenson Photography, Wat Opot: <http://www.chrissorensen.com/watopot>

Phnom Penh Newspaper: <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/>

Poverties.orgPoverty in Cambodia: <http://www.poverties.org/povertyincambodia.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention HIV/AIDS: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/default.html/>

Living and Dying with AIDS PBS: http://www.pbs.org/now/printable/transcript_margaret_print.html

"Gaining Ground Against AIDS: The Cambodian Solution":

[http://www.amfar.org/articles/aroundtheworld/treatasia/older/aninterviewwithdrmeanchhivun%](http://www.amfar.org/articles/aroundtheworld/treatasia/older/aninterviewwithdrmeanchhivun%E2%80%94gaininggroundagainstaidthecambodiansolution/)

[E2%80%94gaininggroundagainstaidthecambodiansolution/](http://www.amfar.org/articles/aroundtheworld/treatasia/older/aninterviewwithdrmeanchhivun%E2%80%94gaininggroundagainstaidthecambodiansolution/)

"Cambodia Asks If 'Voluntourism' Aids Or Exploits The Needy"

<http://www.worldcrunch.com/culturesociety/cambodiaasksif039voluntourism039aidsorexploitstheneedy/>

[volunteerismvoluntourismfriendsinternationalemotionalbonds/c3s16721/#.Vb65tvIViko](http://www.worldcrunch.com/culturesociety/cambodiaasksif039voluntourism039aidsorexploitstheneedy/)

Enemies of the People: Interactive site of PBS documentary about the Khmer Rouge, including

an interactive timeline http://www.pbs.org/pov/enemies/photo_gallery_timeline.php#.Vb66aflViko

"Key Facts on the Khmer Rouge," Al Jazeera:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2012/02/20122314155454169.html>

"Khmer Rouge Leaders Given Life . . .":

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2012/02/20122314155454169.html>