**GEK1009/SSA2203**

**AY2018-19**

**Semester 2**

**Business history & heritage assignment (30%)**

*Heritage sites can make us remember the past, but also reflect on the present day. This assignment challenges you to consider the present-day representations of business history in Singapore.*

**Due date: Assignments should be submitted during your tutorial class in tutorial round 5. (Tutorial 4 is the opportunity to have a workshop on your assignment.)**

(Assignments can also be submitted earlier via the mailboxes in the History Department AS1/05. A softcopy should also be uploaded to the IVLE.)

1300 words maximum. (The word limit do­es not include footnotes and bibliography.)

**Main question: How do local heritage sites and museums represent Singapore’s business history?**

You can choose to visit:

* The Indian Heritage Centre <http://indianheritage.org.sg/en>
* NUS Baba House <https://babahouse.nus.edu.sg> (booking required)
* Singapore Maritime Gallery <https://www.maritimegallery.sg/web/portal/home>
* Haw Par Villa <https://www.hawparvilla.sg>
* The Malay Heritage Centre (the Centre is currently holding a special exhibition on Kampung Gelam as an important port). <http://malayheritage.org.sg/en>
* The Monetary Authority of Singapore’s MAS Gallery <http://www.mas.gov.sg/insights/index.html>
* Gan Clan heritage centre (entry is free but by appointment). http://ganclan.sg/en/heritage/exhibition
* OR another site/or business (after consultation with your tutor)

Your assignment should address these three sections:

1. Briefly introduce and outline the history of the place/site you have chosen to study. What is the significance of this place in relation to Singapore’s business history? (Allow around 250 words)
2. What are the main messages and ideas conveyed through this site/exhibition/tour? Are these ideas conveyed effectively? How is history represented? Does this site allow you to develop a better understanding of the business communities and business history of Singapore? (Allow around 800 words)
3. After researching the site/place and critiquing it, what can you conclude about the history of business in Singapore? Include recommendations to the centre/site for improvements or topics you feel could have been better represented. (Allow around 250 words)

**GRADING RUBRIC:**

**Strong papers will include some research concerning the history of your site but most importantly, an attempt to *critique* this heritage site in relation to Singapore’s business history.** By making some recommendations for improvements or additions to the museum/heritage site/exhibition you are demonstrating that you are applying what we’ve been covering in class and thinking of the implications of how the public can learn from Singapore’s business history. (Or, if there is some aspect of the exhibition that you consider exceptionally good, explain why it is so effective.)

**Weaker papers are those that are heavily descriptive and lack further reflection on how business history is being represented**.

TIP: Don’t purely rely on description but try offering some interpretation of what you are viewing. Bear in mind that history is always being created and recreated depending on social attitudes and needs (for example consider the way that Chinatown’s once seedy ‘red light’ and opium den districts have now become the focus of heritage tours). You may want to question WHY certain aspects of business and business communities are represented in a particular way, and to consider whether there are omissions in the histories you are viewing.

**OPTIONAL READINGS:**

* Hong Lysa and Huang Jianli, *Scripting a National History: Singapore and its pasts* (Singapore: NUS Press, 2008)

|  |
| --- |
| * Kwok Kian-woon (et.al) *Our Place in Time: Exploring Heritage and Memory in Singapore,*   (Singapore: Singapore Heritage Society, 1999) |

* T.C. Chang and Shirlena Huang, “Recreating Place, Replacing Memory: Creative Destruction at the Singapore River” in *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* 46, no. 3 (2005), pp. 267-280. JSTOR
* Brenda Yeoh and Lily Kong, “The Notion of Place in the Construction of History, Nostalgia and Heritage in Singapore” in *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* 17, no. 1 (1996), pp. 52-65. JSTOR

**Further instructions**

This essay should follow standard scholarly conventions (with footnotes/endnotes and a bibliography). Please see the Department of History’s guide to essay writing. If you have any concerns or questions concerning plagiarism then read the Department’s guide in this matter and contact your tutor.

Read ‘Plagiarism and How You Can Avoid It’, <<http://www.cdtl.nus.edu.sg/success/sl7.htm>>

Provide a bibliography of all sources of information used (alphabetical order by author, each title need only be mentioned once).

* Use line spacing of 1.5.
* There’s no need for a coversheet – and you can print double-sided to save paper.
* Please indicate on the top of your paper:
  1. Name
  2. Tutorial group
  3. Total word count
* Please keep a soft copy or photocopy of your essay even after you submit it.
* Late submission penalty: deduction of half a grade for each day beyond the due date.