After the defeat and destruction of the old Siamese kingdom of Ayutthaya in the wake of a Burmese invasion (1767) the premodern Siamese polity was temporarily reconstituted in Thonburi. This first attempt at national consolidation under the leadership of a general of Chinese descent, King Taksin (r. 1769-1782), ended, however, in social and political unrest, which ultimately propelled a well-established aristocratic Siamese family into power (1782). The rulers of the Chakri Dynasty succeeded in restoring order and stability and henceforth ruled the kingdom from the city of Bangkok. Subsequent decades witnessed the restoration of institutions like the traditional monarchy and the Buddhist clergy, the promulgation of a unified legal code, the expansion of agricultural production and trade, as well as the creation of works of art and literature, which came to define Siamese culture prior to the large-scale influx of Western ideas and models. The end of the period under investigation is marked by the Bowring Treaty of 1855 which triggered the opening of Siam to the world economy. This course will familiarize attendees with the political, legal, social and economic history of Siam since the fall of the Ayutthaya kingdom (1767) until the conclusion of the Bowring Treaty (1855).