

Master's Degree in Thai Studies

Compulsory Courses: Course Description

Modernization and Traditional Society in Thailand (3 credits)

Selected aspects of twentieth century Thai Society and culture with a focus on understanding historical continuities and transformations of traditions. Major forces that have shaped Thai culture. The intellectual impact of major political and economic events and the adaptation of social ideas and values to new conditions

Contemporary Thailand (3 credits)

Contemporary political, economic, social & cultural events and phenomena in Thailand

Thai Buddhism (3 credits)

Relationship between Buddhism and development of the Thai State. Mutual integration of Animism, Brahmanism, and Buddhism in Thailand. Buddhism as the ideology of the Thai state and an explanation of Thai social life. Buddhist reformations and religious movements in Thai history. Thai Buddhism in the 21st century.

Elective Courses: Course Description

Peoples and Cultures of Thailand (3 credits)

A survey of peoples in Thai Society and Thailand from its beginning to the modern era. Social, cultural and political changes and factors that have impact on the existence of people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Museums and Thai History (3 credits)

Museums and historic sites in Thailand representing Thai history. The way artifacts and monuments speak to the public.

Concepts of Disease and Medicine in Thai Society (3 credits)

A survey of the history of Thai medical theory and practice from primitive to modern times, encompassing both supernatural and scientific methods of healing. Concepts of disease, image of the body, and therapeutic strategies within Thai cultural settings. Differences between Western and non-Western medical practices.

Capitalism and the Economic Development in Thailand (3 credits)

The evolution of the Thai economic system and important changes of national economic and social plans. The rise of capitalism in Thailand. Economic problems of Thailand due to the spread of capitalism. Rural development in relation to the impact of capitalism.

Thailand in the World Community (3 credits)

The sense of the "world" in Thailand's historical past. Traditional modes of contact and perception of the outside world. Colonialism and the scope of the Thai horizon. Foreign influences and national development. Thailand in globalized context.

Thai World Views (3 credits)

Folk and court explanations of the world order. Cosmologies and social hierarchy. Values and taboos in Thai society. Ideal of man and social order in Thai life.

Thai language in its Social and Cultural Context (3 credits)

Thai language in relation to Thai society and culture. The use of Thai language that varies according to social factors, such as social characteristics of the speaker and social situations. Certain aspects of Thai language and culture that are likely to cause misunderstandings to foreigners who learn Thai and communicate with Thai people.

Thailand and the Neighboring Countries (3 credits)

A comparative studies of Thai society and culture with those of neighboring countries. Relationship between Thailand and neighboring countries in political, economic and social aspects.

Thai Art (3 credits)

Forms, convention, and distinctive characteristics of Thai Art as a cultural expression of Southeast Asia. The relation between Thai Art and Thai ways of life.

Thai Literature (3 credits)

Characteristics and values of Thai literary works in relation to Thai society. The evolution of Thai literature. Contemporary novels and social issues.

Human Geography of Thailand (3 credits)

Pattern and process in relation to Human Geographical phenomenon, i.e. settlements, population, agriculture, industry and transportation.

Special Topics in Thai Studies (3 credits)

Lecture on special topics in Thai Studies.

Information Resources in Thai Studies (3 credits)

Resource information on the disciplines concerning Thai Studies found in Thailand.

Folklore in Thai Society (3 credits)

Role of folklore in Thai society and culture, including folktale, folksong, folk game, performance, beliefs and ritual. Aspects and insights of Thai society and culture reflected in Thai folklore.

Gender in Thai Society (3 credits)

Gender in relation to Thai economic, political and social factors; Thai world view influencing determination of gender status and role in society; transformation of economic structure from self-sufficient to capitalist, and its impact on gender, including violence against women, women trafficking, women's participation in politics, and legal rights of women in relation to roles and rights of men; women and health care, including reproductive health rights.

Ecology and Nature in Thailand (3 credits)

Continuity and changes of views towards nature; representations of nature in the worlds of Buddhism and animism in Thailand; influences of such views on ecology discourse patterns and environment conservation movements in the region.

Urbanization in Thailand (3 credits)

Emergence and development of urban communities in Thailand; urban and rural connection; colonialism and urban forms; urbanization as part of modernization and industrialization; urban and regional development; expansion of metropolitan regions.

Theatre and Films in Thailand (3 credits)

Development of theatre and films in Thailand. Relationship between traditional culture and local theatre and film production. Western influence on local theatre and films. Interrelationship between theatre and films, and politics and society.

Socio-Cultural Survey of East Asian Countries (3 credits)

The cultural development of people in East Asian countries. Impact of western commerce and colonialism upon this region.

Thai Intellectual Thinkers (3 credits)

Biographies and thoughts certain important Thai thinkers whose thoughts have impacted social change or have contributed to Thai society in significant way.

Foreign Communities in Thailand (3 credits)

Various foreign communities in Thai society. Perception of foreigners in Thai society; integration of foreign elements into Thai culture; influence of foreign cultures in current Thai society.

Human Rights in Thailand (3 credits)

Thai attitudes concerning human rights: development of these ideas and the adoption of western culture in Thailand; role of writers and journalists in campaign for human rights; the 1973 Student Movement and spread of the idea of human rights; awareness of social and legal problems concerning human rights.

State of Knowledge in Thai Studies (3 credits)

Integrated view on the Thai Studies, body of knowledge; conceptual framework, theories and methods fundamental to the development of Thai Studies; major work indicating the identity and direction for development of Thai Studies; scope and state of Thai Studies at the present time.

Transnationalism in Thai Society (3 credits)

Various ethnic groups in Thailand, particularly at the border areas; state and problems concerning transnational in Thailand today.

Conflict and resolution in Thai Society (3 credits)

Concepts, different approaches and mechanisms in dealing with conflicts; mediation and negotiation. Types and causes of conflicts in Thai Society, conflict management and problem solving in Thai Society.

Directed Reading in Thai Studies (3 credits)

Supervised reading of assigned works in Thai Studies.

Independent Studies (3 credits)

Thorough research on a specific topic of interest to the student.

Thesis (12 credits)

Thesis