



B.E. International Program

Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University



Course Outline

TU 111 Thailand in Historical, Social and Cultural Perspective

Semester 1/2012 (August 14 – December 1, 2012)

Number of credits:	3 credits
Lecture Time:	Mondays, 1:30 – 4:30 pm.
Lecture Venue:	Room 303, Faculty of Economics
Instructor:	Dr. Wankwan Polachan Department of Performing Arts, Faculty of Communication Arts, Bangkok University (Rangsit campus)

Course Description:

The first part of the lecture will cover the formation and social evolution of the kingdom of Thailand from the Tai origin to the Empire of Ayutthaya into Siam Era and the civil society of Bangkok. This will give the basic understanding of Thai civilization which will enable students to address and examine the national identity characteristics and the way Thailand struggles to find its own place in the global stage better. The latter part of the lecture will cover the concepts and characteristics of Buddhism and materialism, art and literature, standard of values and nation-building which will portray the clear picture of the future direction of Thai society.

Prerequisite: -

Course Objective:

To study a background of Thai society from the aspects of history, culture and knowledge since the period of Siam until the nation state era of Thailand. The focus will be on the making of Thai national identity and the social and cultural development direction in the global context.

Topics to Be Covered:

Origin: the Tai History and the Classical Empires
Sukhothai Era
The Empire of Ayutthaya
Early Bangkok Empire
King Chulalongkorn and Modernization
Elite Nationalism in King Vajiravudh's Reign
Phibun and His Nationalism
Second World War and the Economic Boom of the Bangkok Era
Civil Society and Thailand's Boom and the Crisis
Thaksin Era
Thai Buddhism and National Identity
Standard of Values: Sanuk, Mai Pen Rai and Cool Hearted
Thai Art and Literature
Pop Culture and Materialism

Reading List:

- 1) Thailand: A Short History by David Wyatt. Silkworm Books, Chiang Mai, 2003.
- 2) Thailand, Economy and Politics by Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker, Oxford University Press, Kuala Lumpur, 1997.
- 3) Thailand's Boom and Bust by Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker, Silkworm Books, Chiang Mai, 1998.
- 4) Inside Thai Society: Interpretations of Everyday Life by Niels Mulder, The Pepin Press, Amsterdam, 1996.
- 5) Reflections on Thai Culture by William J. Klausner, The Siam Society, Bangkok, 1993.
- 6) National Identity and Its Defender by Craig J. Reynolds, Silkworm Books, Chiang Mai, 1993.
- 7) Transformation of Thai Concepts of Aesthetics by Mattani Rutnin, Thai Khadi Institute, Thammasat University, Bangkok, 1981.
- 8) Materializing Thailand by Penny Van Esterik, Berg, Oxford, 2000.

Activity

Lecture and presentation
Individual & group reports and presentation

Class Schedule

Class	Date	Topics
1	20/08/12	Pre-historic Time
2	27/08/12	Dvaravadi & Sukhothai Era
3	03/09/12	Ayudhaya I
4	10/09/12	Ayudhaya II
5	17/09/12	Early Bangkok: the Old Order
6	24/09/12	Early Bangkok: Reform
7	08/10/12	Elite Nationalism: Rama VI
8	15/10/12	The Last Absolute Monarch: Rama VII
9	22/10/12	Molding Post-Absolutist Culture
10	29/10/12	American Era
11	05/11/12	Ideologies
12	12/11/12	Thai Buddhism, Pop Culture and Materialism
13	19/11/12	Discussion and Preparation for Final Group Project
14	26/11/12	Group Presentation and Report I (12.00-15.00)
15	26/11/12	Group Presentation and Report II (15.00-18.00)

Assessment

Classroom attendance	10%
Individual assigned paper	20%
Group presentation and paper	30%
Final examination	40% (December 17, 2012, 09.00 – 12.00)

Important Dates:

Classes Begins	August 14, 2012
Adding and Dropping Courses	August 14 – 28, 2012
Midterm Exam Period	October 1 – 6, 2012 (No Lectures)
Course Withdrawal with “W”	October 17 – 22, 2012
Class Ends	December 1, 2012
