

## SPRING 2018 – 7 1/2 Week Study Abroad Seminar in Thailand

### ASU: Southeast Asian-West Perspectives on Philosophy, Religion, and Society

#### Quick Facts

- **Dates:** *Spring 2018 Session A: January 4 - March 1, 2018* (possibility of extending your private stay during Winter Break (before program start date) and/or Spring Break (after the program end date))
- **Location:** Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand
- **Classes:** at Chiang Mai University on M, T, Th (no Friday classes)
- **Field-trips:** Most Wednesdays; academic, cultural, or nature excursions by private A/C vans (Chiang Mai city tour, visits to local temples and markets, meditation temple visits, cultural sites, monk chat)
- **Two overnight trips by air:** 4 nights in Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh City: War Remnants Museum, Independence Palace, Chu Chi Tunnels, Mekong Delta and Delta villages); 3 nights in Cambodia (Siem Riep: Angkor Wat; Phnom Penh: Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, the killing fields)
- **Credits:** Earn 6 or 9 credits

[https://studyabroad.asu.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program\\_ID=10021](https://studyabroad.asu.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10021)



## SPRING 2018 – 7 1/2 Week Study Abroad Seminar in Thailand

### PHIL 494/MAS 550: Death and Happiness in Human Existence: East-West Perspective

(3 credits, ASU course catalog title: Philosophical and Spiritual Issues in Death and Dying).

*Martin Beck MATUSTIK, Lincoln Professor of Ethics & Religion*

**Mo, Tu, Th morning classes @ Chiang Mai University, Thailand**

**We (all day course-related excursions)**

**3 nights, 4 days air trip to Cambodia:** A visit to Cambodia's World Heritage Temples of Angkor complex, the largest religious monument in the world, is part of this program course

*From Buddha to Plato to Maimonides to Heidegger to Kubler-Ross, scholars, clinicians, and spiritual writers have recognized that attitudes about death and dying contribute to understandings of human existence. This course provides inter-faith East-West perspectives on existential philosophies and care ethics.*

**Proposed Texts: (all books are available for purchase in electronic format, easy for travel abroad; additional essays will be provided to students through the course blackboard site)**

Leo Tolstoy. *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*. CreateSpace, 2010 & on Kindle. 978-1451582543.

Ernest Becker. *The Denial of Death*. Free Press, 1997. 978-0684832401.

Daisetz Teitaro Suzuki. *Mysticism: Christian and Buddhist*. Forgotten Books, 2007. New paper & on Kindle. 978-1605061320.

Joan Halifax. *Being with Dying: Cultivating Compassion and Fearlessness in the Presence of Death*. Shambhala, 2009. 978-1590307182.

WEEK	SUGGESTED TOPICS	TUESDAY IN CLASS SESSIONS	WEEKLY HYBRID SESSIONS Suggestions/See activity schedule
I	Read for the first class Death and Its Meaning for Life	Tolstoy, <i>Death of Ivan Ilyich</i> On <a href="http://classics.mit.edu/index.html">http://classics.mit.edu/index.html</a> Marcus Aurelius, <i>Meditations</i> (Books II and IV) * Epicurus, "Letter to Menoecus" * Lucretius, <i>On the Nature of Things</i> (Book III) Halifax (chap. 1)	Option D: film: <i>Antonia's Line</i> & Video recording of a famous Buddhist monk funeral burning in Chiang Mai
II	Athens, Jerusalem, Paris, Kyoto: The Immortal Soul, "Dry Bones" Or No-Self?	Biblical attitudes (Ezekiel & the Passion on BB) Aquinas (excerpts on BB) Copleston, on Aquinas (BB) <i>Jewish Pastoral Care</i> : Eilberg (new ed: 374-399) Nishitani, <i>Religion and Nothingness</i> (chap. 1 on BB) Halifax (chaps. 2 and 4)	Option A: Choose one -- i/Discuss images of heaven & hell, meanings of suffering and redemption in your (non)religious traditions and practices. ii/What is the main issue of dying & dying: physical longevity, spiritual immortality, life to be lived elsewhere or after-life, living in the now knowing one's death?
III	Immortality and Heroism: Despair, Neurosis & Death	Becker, <i>The Denial of Death</i> (chaps. 1-2, 4-5, 8) Halifax (chap. 5) <i>The Gospel of Zen</i> (selection on BB);	Option A: Listen to Becker's death-bed interview Option I: Halifax's video, "Being with Dying," <a href="http://www.upaya.org">www.upaya.org</a> ; and <a href="http://www.zencare.org">www.zencare.org</a> : "Contemplative Care" Or see week VII option A
IV	Transference and the "Great Death"	Becker, <i>The Denial of Death</i> (139-58 + chaps. 9, 11) Suzuki, <i>Mysticism: Christian &amp; Buddhist</i> (1-71) Halifax (chap. 6)	Option D films: Bergman, <i>Seventh Seal</i> (a chess game with death) or <i>Wild Strawberries</i> (a dying man's return to lost innocence); Kim ki-duk, "Spring, Summer...." (Buddhist cycle of death and life)
V	Mindfulness and No Fear	Suzuki, <i>Mysticism</i> (72-107) Halifax, <i>Being with Dying</i> (Part Two)	Option H Or options B and C with focus on end of life care
VI	Dying, Living, Loving	Halifax, <i>Being with Dying</i> (Part III) <i>Jewish PasC</i> : Friedman (Letting..., new ed.. 344-373) & Raphael (new ed. 400-432)	Options F & G Discuss Buddhist, Jewish, Christian stages of coming to terms with death, dying, living and loving. How do practices of dying or burial rites express these stages?

<b>VII</b>	Supplemental readings or media uploaded by students	<b>Final Presentations</b>	<b>Concluding Meditations:</b> Option A: Write your response to: “Wash Out Your Mouth” ( <i>The Gospel of Zen</i> ) and “Jesus and Buddha” ( <i>The Raft Is Not the Shore</i> ) [on BB]  Or, if you did not do it during week III: Option I on Halifax’s u-tube video, <a href="http://www.upaya.org">www.upaya.org</a> : “Being with Dying,” and <a href="http://www.zencare.org">www.zencare.org</a> : “Contemplative Care”
<b>VIII</b>	Supplemental readings uploaded by students	<b>Final Presentations</b>	<b>Meditations</b> Open Option: any relevant course-related site or event you visited in South-East Asia during this course
	<b>READING-Excursion DAY on WEDNESDAY</b>  ----- <b>THURSDAY</b>	----- <b>FINAL PROJECTS due on last class day: 1 e-submission &amp; 1 hard copy</b>	
	<b>FINAL CLASS SESSION</b>	<b>Surprise Site: TBA</b>	



## SPRING 2018 – 7 1/2 Week Study Abroad Seminar in Thailand

### JHR 598/SWG 598/PHI 494/PHI 421: Justice & Forgiveness

(3 credits, ASU course catalog title: Trauma Studies)

*Martin Beck MATUSTIK, Lincoln Professor of Ethics & Religion*

**Mo, Tu, Th morning classes @ Chiang Mai University, Thailand**

**We (all day course-related excursions)**

**4 nights, 5 days air trip to Vietnam & 3 nights, 4 days air trip to Cambodia:** in Vietnam, visit of Ho Chi Minh City: War Remnants Museum, Independence Palace, Chu Chi Tunnels, Mekong Delta and Delta villages & in Cambodia, visit of Phnom Penh: Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and the killing fields are part of this program course

*This course explores the moral, social, and political implications of reparative justice and reconciliation processes. Reparation for injustice, rituals of amnesty, and healing of trauma are ways of coming to terms with mass violence and irreparable harm. We will explore moral conceptions of reparative justice, social-political-psychological process of reconciliation and amnesty, and extra-normative granting or withholding of forgiveness.*

#### ***Required Readings***

978-0-521-70351-2	Charles L. Griswold	Forgiveness: A Philosophical Exploration, 2007
0-19-518126-3	Claudia Card	The Atrocity Paradigm: A Theory of Evil, 2002
1-57322-883-4	His Holiness The Dalai Lama	Ethics for the New Millennium, 1999
Blackboard	Other readings.	UP-TO 20 PP READINGS per class in ASSIGNED BY STUDENTS.

#### **Other recommended resources:**

Gabriele Schwab. *Haunting Legacies: Violent Histories and Transgenerational Trauma*. Columbia University Press, 2010.

Margaret Urban Walker. *Moral Repair: Reconstructing Moral Relations After Wrongdoing*. Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Simon Wiesenthal. *The Sunflower*. Schocken Books, 1998, this edition.



## FINAL RESEARCH PROJECTS - TOPIC SUGGESTIONS

War, war on terror & conflict resolution

Human rights & war crimes

Truth commissions, reparative justice, and forgiveness

Governmental organizations & NGOs in a multicultural and interfaith context

Justice & forgiveness in the global context

*TBA – open topic - if your title does not fit under any of the above categories*



## **SPRING 2018 – 7 1/2 Week Study Abroad Seminar in Thailand**

Students may also opt to take the following course for 3 credits

### **WST 494/WST 598: Gender Identities in Thailand**

(3 credits, **optional**; course catalog title: Topics in Women's Studies: Gender Identities in Thailand)

*Taught by Professor from Chiang Mai University, hired in Thailand by our partner CIS;  
the instructor of the ASU record who will approve the final grades is the SAO program director*

**Mo, Tu, Th morning classes @ Chiang Mai University, Thailand**

**There will be at least one course-related field trip during the class time**

**We (all day course-related excursions)**

This syllabus was prepared by Dr. Janit Feangfu from Chiang Mai University in collaboration with Dr. Martin Beck Matustik, from ASU.

*We will study relationships between gender, culture, and society from a comparative perspective. Is there an underlying biological basis of gender? What is the role that culture and social structure play in defining gender? How does gender impact perceptions of the self? There will be a special focus on traditional and non-traditional gender roles, particularly Thai queer identities, politics & activism.*

**Course Objectives:** The major goal of this course is to increase our awareness of cultural and psychosocial aspects of gender in different societies. The roles of women and gender identity in Thai society will be a major focus of the course. Current and historical aspects of gender in American and Thai society will be examined in depth and compared. Common views of gender, gender roles, and gender identity will be investigated in a comparative approach. Women as agents to transmit, maintain, develop, and change society and culture will be explored. Students will collect information about how cultural values, schools, and families affect the development of gender identity. This process will develop students' understanding of their own values and thinking about gender and social roles in society. Understanding the dynamics of culture, values, social forces, and schools is a critical foundation for understanding people and society.

**Expected Student Outcomes:** Three major topic sections will be covered in this course. The following are the assigned readings for each section and the requirements for class participation:

#### **A. Perspectives on gender and women in societies - changes in views**

1. Review assigned materials
2. In this section class members will:
  - a) Discuss the historical views of women in the United States and globally.
  - b) Use ethnicity and social class to compare the lives of women in different societies.
  - c) Discuss the evidence regarding biology in definitions of sex and gender.
  - d) Describe views of women as the second sex as the "other".
  - e) Discuss binary thinking and its effects on the polarization of sex and gender.
  - f) Discuss the development queer theory.
  - g) Discuss links to normative and non-normative views of sexuality and gender.

- h) Contrast different lenses that can be used to study women and gender in societies.

**B. Women and gender in a comparative focus.**

1. Review assigned materials
2. In this section class members will:
  - a) Discuss major European concepts of gender and women's roles in society.
  - b) Describe women and gender roles found in Africa.
  - c) Discuss views of women in the Mid-east.
  - d) Discuss the importance of women's voices in studying gender and women.
  - e) Compare religious influences in defining women's roles.
  - f) Compare Asian perspectives on women's and gender roles.
  - g) Discuss the dramatic shifts in women's roles in China in the past 60 years and related changes in education and schools, and children's and families' lives.
  - h) Describe women as political leaders in Asian countries.

**C. Women and the politics of gender in Thailand.**

1. Review assigned materials
2. In this section class members will:
  - a. Contrast different historical views of women in Thailand.
  - b. Describe the role of religion and migration in the lives of women in Thailand.
  - c. Describe relationships between gender, legal issues, and political equality in Thailand.
  - d. Discuss economic influences on definitions of gender in the USA and Thailand.
  - e. Discuss discrimination issues for women & non-normative gender groups in Thailand.
  - f. Describe the development of different social organizations working for women's rights and gender equality in Thailand.
  - g. Discuss the role of the arts in changing perspectives of women in Thailand.
  - h. Discuss Thai educational institutions involvement in the women's movement.
  - i. Compare perspectives on gender/women's studies in Thailand, the USA and globally.
  - j. Discuss the importance of women's voices and women's perspectives in understanding gender issues.

**Required Reading:** All readings and assigned materials will be posted as files and links on the above Dropbox location. Photocopies of text materials will also be available to purchase for the cost of printing from the Chiang Mai University office. Materials used will come from the following:

- Aldous, S. and Sereemongkonpol, P. (2008). *Ladyboys: the Secret World of Thailand's Third Gender*. Maverick House.
- Eckert, P & McConnell-Ginet, S. (2003) *Language and Gender*. Cambridge University Press.
- Jackson, Peter A (1989) *Male Homosexuality in Thailand*. Global Academic Publishers.
- Jackson, Peter A (ed) (2011) *Queer Bangkok*. Hong Kong University Press.
- Jackson, Peter A & Cook, Nerida, M ( 1999) *Gender and Sexuaities in Modern Thailand*.
- Jackson, Peter A & Sullivan, Gerard (eds) 2000 *Ladyboys, Tomboys, Rent Boys: Male and Female Homosexualities in Contemporary Thailand*. Chiang Mai, Silkworm Books.
- Nanda, Serena (2000) *Gender Diversity: Cross-cultural variations*. Waveland Press.
- Richardson, D & Robinson, V. (eds) (2008) *Introducing Gender and Women's Studies (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed)* Palgrave MacMillan.
- Ridgeway, C.L. ( 2011) *Framed by Gender: How gender inequality persists in the modern world*. Oxford University Press.
- Sinnott, Megan J. (2004) *Toms and Dees: Transgender Identity and Female Same-sex relationships in Thailand*. University of Hawaii Press.



- Smith, Bonnie G. (2013) *Women's Studies: The basics*. Routledge.
- Smith, Dinita (1998) "'Queer Theory' Entering the Literary Mainstream" *New York Times* Jan. 19.
- Totman, Richard (2003) *The Third Sex: Kathoey: Thailand's Ladyboys*. Souvenir Press.

For those of you who are interested in political aspects of gender and a global perspective, it is recommended: Davidoff, L. McClelland, K. & Varikas, E. (Eds.). *Gender and History: Retrospect and Prospect*. Blackwell, Malden, MA, 2000. and Canning, K. & Rose, S.O. (Eds.) *Gender, Citizenship and Subjectivities*. Blackwell, Malden, MA, 2001. A classic psychologically focused introduction to gender and women's studies can be found in Bem, S.L. *The Lenses of Gender: Transforming the Debate on Sexual Inequality*. Yale University Press, 1994. A newer introductory text book is Ryle, R. *Questioning Gender: A sociological exploration*. Sage Publications, Pine Forest Press 2012.

**Course Outline and Proposed Schedule for 7 ½ weeks:**

Date	Activities, Topics, Themes to be covered in each class period.	Assignments to be completed BEFORE each class listed.
<b>Week 1</b>		
Mon.	Course introduction - language, history and lived traditions	
Tues.	Society and culture <i>Framed by Gender</i> Chs. 1 – 3	
Thurs.	Normative and non-normative views of sexuality/gender	assignment 1 due
<b>Week 2</b>		
Mon.	Intersectionality and difference -- gender, ethnicity, social class	
Tues.	Global perspectives on gender, work, and home life	assignment 2 due
Thurs.	Changing gender roles, modernization, social and cultural transformations	
<b>Week 3</b>		
Mon.	midterm exam	
Tues.	Cultural roots, demographic changes, family patterns, lived experience	
Thurs.	Schools, media, and popular culture	
<b>Week 4</b>		
Mon.	Prostitutes to communities	
Tues.	<u>Guest Chiang Mai University faculty member Sura Intamool</u> Thai Queer Identities, History, Ambivalent Attitudes, Thai Queer Politics & Activism.	
Thurs.	<u>Guest Chiang Mai University faculty member Janit Feangfu,</u> The Rice Goddess Story and The Perfect Woman Complex in Contemporary Thai Woman Authors.	

Week 4		
Mon.	Book discussion – part 1 Aldous, S. and Sereemongkonpol, P. (2008). <i>Ladyboys: the Secret World of Thailand's Third Gender</i> . Maverick House.	Book review assignment due in class
Tues.	Book discussion – part 2 Aldous, S. and Sereemongkonpol, P. (2008). <i>Ladyboys: the Secret World of Thailand's Third Gender</i> . Maverick House.	Book review assignment due in class
Thurs.	guest speaker from transgender community in Chiang Mai	
Week 5		
Mon.	Book discussion Jackson, Peter A & Sullivan, Gerard (eds) 2000 <i>Ladyboys, Tomboys, Rent Boys: Male and Female Homosexualities in Contemporary Thailand</i> . Chiang Mai, Silkworm Books.	Book review assignment due in class
Tues.	Book discussion Totman, Richard ( 2003) <i>The Third Sex: Kathoey: Thailand's Ladyboys</i> . Souvenir Press.	Book review assignment due in class
Thurs.	COURSE-RELATED FIELD TRIP	
Week 6		
Mon.	final** presentations	
Tues.		
Thurs		
Week 7		
Mon.	final** presentations	
Tues.		
Thurs.	final discussion, work returned	

This is an upper level course so your participation is an important component of everyone's learning. The course is designed to build on your experiences in Thailand. There are several faculty members here at Chiang Mai University who are involved with women's studies, gender studies, and organizations working for gender equity in the area. Two of these CMU faculty members have agreed to be guest lecturers in class on traditional and contemporary views of women in Thailand and on LGBT issues in Thailand.

The midterm will be based on a comparative investigation of a women or gender issue in two countries. The final will be based on a project related to gender or women's issues in Thailand