THAILAND:
EDUCATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND GLOBALIZATION

Overseas Seminar, Bing Overseas Studies Program, Stanford University

Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
August 25 - September 13, 2008

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Seminar combines the efforts of Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand with those of the Stanford faculty organizers and seminar assistant to address issues related to education, development, and globalization in Thailand and Southeast Asia. In addition to class meetings, the seminar will consist of presentations and discussions with Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, several high ranking government officials, Thai academics, international organizations, and local organizations. We will meet primarily on the campus of Chulalongkorn University and other locations in Bangkok as well as a short visit to Chiang Mai.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of the seminar, students would have

1. Gained an understanding of the Thai educational system at all levels.
2. Observed how the socio-economic and political issues affecting Thailand have shaped the lives of Thais at school, at work, and in their communities.
3. Contributed to a broader understanding of Americans on the part of Thai people.

COURSE NUMBER, UNITS & GRADING

OSPGEN 87 (Thailand); 2 units; Letter grade

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Seminar participation (meetings and discussion sessions)
- Readings [available on **bb.stanford.edu**]
- Assignments: Journal Entries, Interview, Final Essay

DISCUSSION SESSIONS (10% of total grade)

Students are expected to come to each lecture and site visit having read the required (and if possible, recommended readings) and with questions for the speakers. We will hold occasional discussion sessions to discuss your experiences and lecture material in an informal setting. Dates and times are subject to change.

Date	Time & Location
Friday, August 29	After lunch in conference room
Saturday, Sept. 6	Over lunch
Friday, Sept. 1	After lunch in conference room

JOURNAL ENTRIES (5 points each; 25% of grade total)

Journal entries will be written throughout the duration of the seminar to help you reflect on your experiences. Entries will be collected and graded only with a "check." Entries should be about 500 words and may be hand- or type-written. They are to be turned in by 7PM of the due date either directly to seminar leaders (if hand-written) or uploaded to Blackboard/Discussion Board.

Entry 1: Aug. 28

In your first days in Bangkok, what observations have you made about different aspects of life in Thailand (i.e., social interactions among Thais, the institutions, the surrounding environment)? How do you expect the seminar to help you gain a deeper understanding of what you see in Thailand?

Entry 2: Sept. 2

What are the successes of the Thai education system? What are its main challenges?

Entry 3: Sept. 5

What similarities and differences do you see between Thai K-12 education and the K-12 education you received? What do you think accounts for those differences?

Entry 4: Sept. 9

Reflect on our visit to St. Gabriel's College, Suksa Song Khaow Welfare Boarding School, and Soon Ruam Num Jai School. How do educational issues differ among them? In the provinces versus those in Bangkok?

Entry 5: Sept. 12

Reflect on the relationship between education, development, and globalization in Thailand. Use this as a starting point for your Final Essay.

INTERVIEW ASSIGNMENT (25% of total grade)

Throughout this seminar, we explore and encounter a multitude of differences. Locally we are exploring differences with regard to region, wealth, social status, and gender. Personally, we cannot escape cultural differences that arise as we encounter and engage Thai culture, people, and institutions. As we continue our immersion experience, it is important to use our own observations to help us understand these differences, both external and internal. It is also necessary to incorporate the Thai people with whom we are interacting into our formal and informal analyses.

For this assignment, you will identify someone (student, teacher, administrator, staff member, etc.) whom you will interview in depth for at least one hour. You will likely have more to talk about than will fit in one hour, and if possible, feel free to continue past that time. Since we know that it may difficult to pin down a single interviewee for a full hour, please try to incorporate additional less formal interviews with 2 or 3 additional people if necessary. Have a list of questions prepared (Be creative!) that will allow you to explore your burgeoning experiences of difference in Thailand, particularly as they may pertain to educational experiences, understandings of the global community, and topics of personal interest related to globalization and development.

This assignment should be between 3 to 5 pages, double-spaced. The due date will be the final day of our seminar **September 13, 2008, by 10PM**. Please turn in via the "Assignments" button on Blackboard. Alternatively, you may hand it in to Professors Wotipka or Antonio.

FINAL ESSAY (40% of total grade)

Write an essay outlining one or two major challenges for contemporary Thai society, focusing on the role that education (elementary, secondary, & tertiary) plays in positively addressing and/or contributing to the persistence of those challenges. Draw upon lectures, journal assignments, and course materials for your essays.

This assignment should be 10 pages *maximum*, double spaced. The final essay will be due on **October 15, 2008, by 1PM.** This assignment must be turned in via the "Assignments" button on Blackboard.

REQUIRED READINGS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

- Thailand – Culture Smart! [purchase one's own copy]
- EIU Thailand Profile & Thailand Report
- Keyes chapters

DAILY SCHEDULE & READINGS

Monday, August 25, 2008 Day 1

- Stanford students arrive and settle into Sasa International House

Tuesday, August 26, 2008 Day 2

- 08.45 Meet in lobby and walk to Alumni Room, Sasa International House (1st fl.)
- 09.00 - 09.30 Opening Ceremony
- 09.30 - 12.30 **Lecture #1 - An Overview: A Glance at Thailand, Thai Life and Thai Society**
  Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn
- 12.30 - 14.00 Welcome Lunch
- 14.30 - 16.00 Campus Tour
- 17.00 Meet with representatives of Chulalongkorn University Student Council

➢ Readings: Education for Development

Wednesday, August 27, 2008 Day 3

- 09.00 - 12.00 **Lecture #2 - The Role of the Universities in Information Technology Development in Thailand**
  Assoc. Prof. Dr. Soraj Hongladarom
- 12.00 - 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 - 16.00 A Visit to IRC (International Rescue Committee) and Ms. Sandee Pyne

➢ Readings: International Migration (Recommended: Articles by Hongladarom, Hawley)

Thursday, August 28, 2008 Day 4

- 09.00 - 12.00 **Lecture#3 – The Macroeconomics of Thailand: Its Current and Future Development**
  Assoc. Prof. Dr. Paitoon Wiboolchutikul
- 12.00 - 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 - 16.00 A Visit to UNDP and Ms. Gwi Yeop Son

➢ Readings: Political Economy (Recommended: Thai Human Development Report-UNDP and web site; Labor Markets and Education)

Friday, August 29, 2008 Day 5

- 09.00 - 12.00 **Lecture#4 – The Education System in Thailand : History and Development,** Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn
  [Formal]
- 12.00 - 14.00 Luncheon hosted by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn
- 14.00 – 15.00 *Discussion Session*

➢ Reading: Inequality and Educational Investment in Thailand

Saturday, August 30, 2008 Day 6

- 07.30 - 11.00 River Cruise along the Chao Phraya River and canals with stops at the Temple of the Dawn and Wat Po. On-site lecture by Dr. Worrasit Tantinipankul, King Mongkut Institute of Technology

- 11.30 - 16.30 Luncheon with Stanford Alumni at Assumption University hosted by Bro. Prathip M. Komolmas, President Emeritus and campus tour

Sunday, August 31, 2008 Day 7

- Work and rest day – assignments and readings

Monday, September 1, 2008 Day 8

- 09.00 - 11.00 A Visit to the Ministry of Education and courtesy call on Khunying Kasama Varavarn na Ayuddhaya, Secretary General, Office of Basic Education Commission, Ministry of Education [Semi-formal]
- 12.00 - 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 - 17.00 **Lecture#5 – The Politics of Development in Thailand : Government and Non-Government Actors**
  Prof. Dr. Suchit Bunbongkara

➢ Readings: Education Reform in Thailand & Secondary Education in Thailand (Recommended: MOE web site)

Tuesday, September 2, 2008 Day 9

- 10.00 - 11.30 A Visit to UNESCO and courtesy call on Dr. Sheldon Shaeffer, Director of UNESCO, Bangkok
- 12.00 - 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 - 16.00 A Visit to Saint Gabriel's College

➢ Reading: UNESCO web site (Recommended: World Bank in Developing World)

Wednesday, September 3, 2008 Day 10

- 10.00 - 12.00 A Visit to USAID (US Embassy)
- 12.00 - 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 - 17.00 A Visit to UNICEF Regional Office and courtesy call on Dr. Cliff Meyers and Ms. Aya Aoki

➢ Reading: Thailand HIV/AIDS Report (skim) and UNICEF Report (focus on Parts 3-4)

Thursday, September 4, 2008 Day 11

- 07.00 Leave for Donmuang Airport
- 09.05 Flight to Chiang Mai Airport
- 10.30 - 11.00 City tour
- 12.00 - 13.00 Lunch at the Hotel
- 14.00 - 16.00 **Lecture#6 – Indigenous Rights and Education in Thailand**
  Dr. Chayan Vaddhanaphuti
- 16.00 - 17.30 **Lecture#7 – Ethnic Minority in Northern Thailand**
  Dr. Prasit Leepreecha, Center for Ethnic Studies and Development, Chiang Mai University
- 19.00 Traditional Northern style dinner with cultural performances

➢ Reading: Language Policy in Thailand

Friday, September 5, 2008 Day 12

- 08.00 - 11.00 Leave for Suksa Song Khaow Welfare Boarding School, Mae Rim District
- 12.00 - 13.00 Lunch at Suan Pak Restaurant
- 13.30 – 15.00 A Visit to Bann Nong Krai School and meet with the Life Skills Development Foundation Director, Mr. Kraingkrai Chaimuangdi
- 15.30 - 17.00 AVisit to Huay Hong Krai Royal Project and on-site lecture by Dr. Chanthana Suwanthada, Chiang Mai University
- 19.00 Dinner at a local restaurant

Saturday, September 6, 2008 Day 13

- 08.00 - 11.00 A Visit to Maesa Elephant Camp, rides and other camp activities
- 12.00 - 13.00 Lunch at a local restaurant with *Discussion Session*
- 14.00 - 16.00 Visit Doi Suthep Temple, landmark of Chiang Mai
- 16.00 City exploration and dinner

Sunday, September 7, 2008 Day 14

- Free
- 16.00 Check out from Hotel
- 20.25 Flight back to Bangkok

Monday, September 8, 2008 Day 15

- 08.30 - 10.00 A Visit to Soon Ruam Num Jai School, Klong Toey
- 10.30 - 11.30 A Visit to UNESCO and courtesy call on
  Dr. David Feingold, UNESCO – Highland Citizenship Project,
  Trafficking, and HIV/AIDS in Thailand
- 12.00 - 13.00 Lunch
- 13.00 - 16.00 **Lecturer#8 - The Impact of Current Issues on Education Development and Globalization in Thailand**
  Asst. Prof. Surat Horachaikul
- 16.30 - 17.30 An evening talk with Dr. Porntip Kanjananiyot, Director of the Fulbright

➢ Reading: ECPAT Report – Thailand; USAID Trafficking Report (Thailand section)

Tuesday, September 9, 2008 Day 16

- 08.00 - 10.00 A Visit to Ministry of Defense and courtesy call on
  General Vinai Pattiyakul, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry
  and other high ranking military officers [Semi-formal]
- 11.30 - 12.30 Lunch
- 13.00 - 14.00 A Visit to Democrat Party of Thailand and courtesy call on
  Dr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Leader of Opposition [Semi-formal]
- 14.30 - 16.00 A Visit to the Parliament of Thailand and courtesy call on the Senate Standing Committee of Education

➢ Reading: Globalization and Education (Recommended: Thai Regimes of Images; Military and Democracy)

Wednesday, September 10, 2008 Day 17

- 9.00 - 10.30 A Visit to Royal Development Projects in the Chitralada Palace
- 11.00-12.30 A Visit to Chitralada Vocational School
- 12.30-13.30 Luncheon hosted by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn
- 13.00 - 15.00 **Lecture #9 – Ethnic Identity and State Practices of Symbolic Encompassment in Thailand**
  Dr. Alexandra Denes, Associate Researcher, Sirindhorn Anthropology Center
- 15.00 - 17.00 **Lecture #10 – Separatism in Southern Thailand**
  Prof. Thanet Aphonrsuvan, Thammasat University

➢ Reading: Thanet book chapter (Recommended: UNICEF Southern Thailand Report)

Thursday, September 11, 2008 Day 18

- 09.00 - 12.00 **Lecture#11 – The Wonders of Thai Arts & Architecture**
  M.R. Chakrarot Chitrabongse
- 12.00 - 13.00 Lunch
- 13.00 - 16.30 A Visit to the Grand Palace and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha [Formal mourning attire]

Friday, September 12, 2008 Day 19

- 10.00 - 11.30 A Visit to National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) and courtesy call on Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sakarindr Bhumiratana
- 12.00 - 13.00 Lunch
- 13.00 – 14.00 *Discussion Session*
- 16.00 - 18.00 Closing Ceremony and Certificate Presentation
- 19.00 Farewell dinner cruise along the Chao Phraya River

➢ Reading: National Innovation System

Saturday, September 13, 2008 Day 20

- Morning Chatuchak (JJ) Weekend Market: Th Phahonyothin; Skytrain Mo Chit, subway Kamphoeng Pet

- 20.00 Interview assignment due

DRESS CODES

Formal: Men must be in suit and necktie with polite leather shoes. Women must wear a semi-formal dress with short or long sleeves or a skirt suit. The dress or skirt must cover the knee. The colors are up to your taste and style but must be appropriate. No sandals, sneakers, or denim.

Formal mourning attire: Dress code is black. For men, black pants and white or black shirt with black necktie. For women, black dress or skirt and sleeved blouse. The dress or skirt must cover the knees and must look appropriate. No sandals, sneakers, or denim.

Semi-formal: "Dressier" modest business casual. No sandals, sneakers, or denim.

Modest business casual: Unless otherwise noted, the dress code for most weekdays is "modest" business casual. For women, we recommend dresses or skirts (at/below the knee) as they are cooler than pants. Tops must have sleeves and not be low cut. For men, we recommend pants and shirts with collars. For everyone, closed-toe sandals are allowed but nicer shoes (with socks for men) are recommended. No sneaker or denim.