

Course Syllabus
Thai Studies
Pridi Banomyong International College
Thammasat University

Course: PD223 Society and Culture of Thailand (3 credits – 45 hours)
Class time: 09.00 – 12.00 (3 hours)
Class Room: PBIC#203
Lecturer: Aj.Akkharaphong Khamkhun
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Course Description

Thai society and culture as investigated in diverse anthropological methods, using case studies from various researches by Thai and international academics, emphasizing analytical and critical approaches.

Objectives

1. To explore the diversity of Thai society and culture from anthropological approach
2. To emphasize the comprehension of Thai society and culture by using case studies from various researches by Thai and international academics
3. To study the changes and transformations of Thai society and culture in a time of Globalization from cross-cultural and comparative approaches

Course Focus

The focus of this course is on the exploration of Thai society and culture through historical, anthropological, sociological, and cultural studies approaches. Topics to be covered include: the ways of Thai, the rural-urban divide; Thai identity and notions of “Thainess”; Thai social relations; development; migration, and socioeconomic change; gender; religion; and arts.

Grading	Percentage of total grade (100%)
Class Attendance	20%
Final Paper and Oral Presentation	40% (20+20)
Final Examination:	40%

A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	F
80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	0-49%
4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0

Final Paper and Oral Presentation

The final paper is a 8-15-page A4 report of student's observation presenting his/her critiques, thoughts, and/or questions on the daily life of Thai society. It shall be a social and cultural notion of what Thainess is, based on the class lectures and academic readings. Student can write the paper in any format such as academic writing, photo essay, or survey report. Please note, this means that you must complete the final paper before the oral presentation day in the last week of the class.

Submit final paper by email to akhamkoon@me.com

The subject line should read: "Topic – [student's ID number]"

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1	3 July	Orientation and Introduction to Thailand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Cross Cultural and Social Studies Framework ➤ An Introduction to Thammasat University History ➤ Life of Pridi Banomyong – the founder of Thammasat and Thailand's Democracy ➤ TU Walking Tour
2	4 July	The King and the Kingdom of Thailand Visit the Grand Palace and the Emerald Buddha Temple – (polite dress required) 09.00 assemble at Lan Pho in front of the Anekprasong 1 building 09.15 walk to the Grand Palace via the Thammasat's great wall 09.30 arrive to the main gate of the Grand Palace 09.45 visit the Temple of the Emerald Buddha – the most important image of the kingdom 10.30 visit the complex halls, the temple's vicinity, and other the general halls of the temple 11.00 visit the central throne-hall and the middle part of the grand palace 11.30 visit the ChakriMahaPrasat Grand Hall – the European-Thai Architectural Style 12.00 depart for Thammasat University
3	5 July	Introduction to the Ways of Thai <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Royalty and Nobility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ranks and Title in Thailand - <i>Rachasap</i> – the Royal Language - What's in a Thai name/surname? - The world's longest place-name - Some sayings and proverbs ➤ Festivals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Loy Krathong</i> - <i>Songkran</i> ➤ Ceremonies and Customs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The <i>Wai</i> - <i>Tam boon</i> at home - <i>Khun</i> – an everyday but deep word - <i>Wai Kru</i> – paying respect to teachers - The wedding ceremony - Calling blessing on a new house - After someone dies / Placing the bones - <i>Buat Nahk</i> – entering the monkhood - <i>Phansa</i> – the Buddhist Lent - Making Temple Donations/<i>Tod Pa-bpa</i> ceremony/<i>Tod Kathin</i> ➤ Some Social "Do's and Don'ts in Thailand" ➤ Some other social norms <p><u>Reading:</u></p>

		Segalle, Denis. <i>Thai Ways</i> . Bangkok: Post Books, 2001. (pp.5-8/15-23/25-35/39-81/208-226) Phya Anuman Rahadhon. <i>Introducing Cultural Thailand in Outline</i> . Bangkok: Fine Arts Department, 2001. (pp.4-28)
4	10 July	<p>General Characteristics of the Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pattern of the Past ➤ Unity and Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Land - The People ➤ The Economic Base ➤ The Social Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Family - The Village Community - The Temple - The Political Community ➤ The Temper of Life ➤ New Currents <p><u>Reading:</u> ‘Chapter 1: General Characteristics of the Society’ (pp.1-20) in Blanchard, Wendell. <i>Thailand: Its People, Its Society, Its Culture</i>. New Heaven: HRAF Press, 1970. Embree, John F. "Thailand - A Loosely Structured Social System." <i>American Anthropologist</i> 52, no. 2 (Apr. - Jun., 1950): 181-193.</p>
5	11 July	<p>Old Bangkok: Its Social and Cultural Diversity Visit the Temple of Dawn, Wat Kalayanamitra, Boat Trip to the Chinese Shrine and Catholic Church in Thonburi – (polite dress required)</p> <p>09.00 assemble at Lan Pho in front of the Anekprasong 1 building 09.15 take a boat at Wang Lang pier 09.30 walk to WatRakhang – the most sacred amulet formulating place in Thailand 10.00 take a boat to WatKanlayanamitra – the Big Buddha Temple 10.20 visit the Guan Yin Shrine and SantaCruz Church 11.00 visit WatArunRahcawararam – the temple of Dawn 12.00 depart for Thammasat University</p>
6	12 July	<p>The Social and Cultural Milieus of the Kingdom of Siam/Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ General Background and History Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kinship System - Historical Development of Thai Social and Political Organization ➤ Unity and Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Land - The People ➤ The Economic Base ➤ The Social Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Family - The Village Community - The Temple - The Political Community ➤ The Temper of Life ➤ New Currents <p><u>Movie:</u> <i>Anna and the King</i>, 20th Century Fox, 1999</p> <p><u>Reading:</u> ‘Chapter II: General Background and History Development’ (pp.13-47) in Akin Rabibhadana. <i>The Organization of Thai Society in the Early Bangkok Period 1782-1873</i>. Bangkok:</p>

		Amarin Printing and Publishing, 1996. ‘Chapter 13: The Thai opening up to the world’ (pp.159-171) in Mulder, Niels. <i>Inside Southeast Asia: Religion, Everyday Life, Cultural Change</i> . Kuala Lumpur: The Pepin Press, 1996.
7	17 July	<p>Social Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rural Social Structure ➤ Basic Social Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Family Household - The Community and Reciprocal Work Groups - Friendship Cliques and Liaisons - Other Groupings - Local Chapter of the Buddhist Order - The Temple Lady Committees - Village Leadership - The Monks - Headmen and Elders - Status and Prestige <p><u>Readings:</u> ‘Chapter 20: Social Organization’ (pp.397-420) in Blanchard, Wendell. <i>Thailand: Its People, Its Society, Its Culture</i>. New Heaven: HRAF Press, 1970. ‘Chapter 20: Social Organization’ (pp.397-420) in Blanchard, Wendell. <i>Thailand: Its People, Its Society, Its Culture</i>. New Heaven: HRAF Press, 1970. Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker. <i>Thailand: Economy and Politics</i>. Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press, 2002. (pp.211-243)</p>
8	19 July	<p>Social Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Urban Bangkok Social Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Differences in Rural and Urban Social Structure - Qualifications for Class Membership - Bangkok Social Structure - Class Characteristics - Formal Organizations and Associations ➤ Provincial Social Structure ➤ Other Ethnic Society ➤ The Absolutist State <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The King, the Aristocracy, and Tax Farmers - Foundation of Absolutism - Resistance to Bangkok’s Expansion - Army, Police, <i>Sangha</i>, School, and Nation - The Bureaucracy <p><u>Movie:</u> <i>Me Myself</i>, Mono Film, 2008 <u>Readings:</u> ‘Chapter 20: Social Organization’ (pp.397-420) in Blanchard, Wendell. <i>Thailand: Its People, Its Society, Its Culture</i>. New Heaven: HRAF Press, 1970. ‘Chapter 20: Social Organization’ (pp.397-420) in Blanchard, Wendell. <i>Thailand: Its People, Its Society, Its Culture</i>. New Heaven: HRAF Press, 1970. Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker. <i>Thailand: Economy and Politics</i>. Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press, 2002. (pp.211-243)</p>
9	20 – 22 July	<p>Travelling Classroom to Chiang Mai and Lanna Culture: Plural Society in Thailand and Her Neighboring Countries Day 1 Bangkok-Chiang Mai 07.00 depart from Bangkok for Chiang Mai by Airplane at Suvannabhumi Airport</p>

		<p>08.00 check-in Central Duangtawan Hotel 09.00 Breakfast at the hotel 10.00 visit Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep, Chiang Mai's most important pagoda 12.00 Lunch at restaurant 14.00 – 17.00 Class Lecture: Plural Society in Thailand and Her Neighbors at the Plenary Hall, Central Duangtawan Hotel (3 hours) 18.00 Dinner at Huan Suntary Lanna Restaurant – Menam Ping Riverside 20.00 back to the hotel and leisure at Chiang Mai Night Bazaar</p> <p>Day 2 Chiang Mai 06.00 Morning Call 07.00 Breakfast at the hotel 08.00 leave for the Elephant show at Maesa Elephant Camp 11.00 visit hill tribe village --- the long-neck Karen 12.00 Lunch at restaurant 14.00 visit Wat Phra Singh and the temple's museum where the Emerald Buddha Image was housed in 16th century before Bangkok period 15.00 Chiang Mai city tour – the city ancient wall, Tha Pae Gate 17.00 back to the hotel and preparing for dinner 18.00 Dinner at restaurant 20.00 back to the hotel</p> <p>Day 3 Chiang Mai – Bangkok 06.00 Morning Call 07.00 Breakfast 08.00 check-out 10.00 visit Chiang Mai National Museum 12.00 Lunch at restaurant 14.00 shopping at Chiang Mai Silk and Souvenir Center 16.00 check-in the airport 17.50 leave for Bangkok by Airplane 18.10 arrive at Bangkok and proceed to 3J Court Apartment</p>
10	24 July	<p>Social Values, Attitudes, and Patterns of Living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Orientation of Thai Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic Values - Spiritual Development and Attainment of Merit - Individual Responsibility - Authority and Leadership - Rural-Urban Differences - Concepts of Time - Temporal Units – the Calendar ➤ Attitudes and Reaction of the People <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Towards the Government - Toward Foreign Ideologies ➤ Economy and Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Peasant Century - The Absolutist State - The Open Economy - The Urban Surge - Thailand Transformed - Epilogue: The Death of Phumphuung Duangjan

		<p><u>Movie:</u> <i>Thongpan</i>, 1976</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> ‘Chapter 24: Social Values, Attitudes, and Patterns of Living’ (pp.479-496) in Blanchard, Wendell. <i>Thailand: Its People, Its Society, Its Culture</i>. New Heaven: HRAF Press, 1970.</p> <p>Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker. <i>Thailand: Economy and Politics</i>. Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press, 2002. (pp.395-415)</p>
11	26 July	<p>Thainess and the Otherness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Two-way Identification of Nationhood ➤ The Positive and Negative Identification of Thainess ➤ Thai Studies ➤ Struggle for Interpretation ➤ Siam as a Cultural Construct ➤ Thai National Identity and Its Defenders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Culture Policy and Identity - Ethnicity and Identity - National Security and Identity ➤ Thai Identity in the Age of Globalization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debate about Globalization - Vision of the Future - Local Knowledge, Local Identity <p><u>Documentary:</u> <i>From Siam to Thailand: What in a Name?</i></p> <p><u>Reading:</u> Thongchai Winichakul. “The Presence of Nationhood,” <i>Siam Mapped: A History of the Geobody of a Nation</i>. Bangkok: Silkworm Books, 2004. (pp.1-19)</p> <p>Anderson, Benedict Richard O’Gorman. ‘Studies of The Thai State, the State of Thai Studies’ (monograph)</p> <p>Reynolds, Craig J. <i>National Identity and Its Defenders: Thailand Today</i>. Chiang Mai: Silkworm, 2002. (pp.1-32/308-338)</p>
12	30 July	<p>Thai Popular Culture and Tourism in Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Popular Culture: What makes something very Thai? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Street Dinner on a Stick: for the constant urge to snack, street food is always close at hand - Drink in a Bag: Quenching thirst with juices, tea and herbal tinctures - Tuk-tuk: The three-wheeled motor-rickshaw is a national treasure - Hi-so – Inside high society: famous families and new money - Nicknames & Namecards: What Thais call each other is a serious business, whether lucky, rhyming, or cute - Kathoey & Tom-Dee: Beyond male and female to ‘angels in disguise’ - Massage: Ancient techniques for healing and relaxing the body - The Thai Dream Siamese lifestyle went to the mall, the suburb, the golf course - Royal Portraits: Pictures of kings past and present express the Thai sense of identity - Amulet Collectors: Lucky charms as a lifestyle - <i>Muay Thai</i>: Thai boxing kicks and punches its way from ringside ritual into global pop culture - Soap Operas: Formula TV drama reveals the secret life of Thailand <p><u>Reading:</u> Cornwel-Smith, Phillip. <i>Everyday Popular Culture</i>. Bangkok: River Books, 2005. (pp.9-12/16-21/45-47/77-81/90-97/124-127/130-133/142-145/203-207/238-241)</p> <p>Cohen, Erik. “Thailand in ‘Touristic Transition’,” in <i>Interconnected Worlds: Tourism in</i></p>

		<i>Southeast Asia</i> . Peggy Teo, T.C. Chang and K.C. Ho (eds.), London: Pergamon, 2001. (pp.155-175)
13	31 July	<p>Conflict and Resolution in Thai Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hierarchy versus Civil Society ➤ Economy from Tiger Cub to Crisis ➤ Political Role of the Military and Police ➤ Revolution and Dictatorship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Towards 1932: Absolutism and Its Opponents - The 1932 Revolution - The Strength of the Old Order - The Rise of Military Nationalism - From Political Revolution to Social Revolution - Battle: The Rise of the First Army - The American Period - Business and Generals - The Restoration <p><u>Reading:</u> Funston, John. 'Thailand: Reform Politics' in <i>Government and Politics in Southeast Asia</i>. Singapore: ISEAS, 2001. (pp.328-371) Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker. <i>Thailand: Economy and Politics</i>. Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press, 2002. (pp.244-289) Anderson, Benedict Richard O’Gorman. “Withdrawal Symptoms,” In <i>The Spectre of Comparisons: Nationalism, Southeast Asia, and the World</i>. London: Verso, 1998. (pp.139-173)</p>
14	6 August	Paper Presentation 1
15	7 August	Paper Presentation 2 <i>Summing up, Discussion, and Preparation for Final Examination</i>
	9 August	<i>Final Examination (09.00-12.00 in class)</i>

Suggested Readings:

- Akkharaphong Khamkhun. *Border of Mind: Nationalism, Tourism, and Competing Meanings of the Thai-Cambodian*. Paper presented at The 3rd Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies.28-29 July 2008, National University of Singapore.
- Anderson, Benedict Richard O’Gorman. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London: Verso, 2006.
- Anderson, Benedict Richard O’Gorman. "Withdrawal Symptoms." In *The Spectre of Comparisons: Nationalism, Southeast Asia, and the World*. London: Verso, 1998.
- Brown, Ian. *Economic Change in South-East Asia, c. 1830 - 1980*. Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Cooper, Robert and Nanthapa. *Culture Shock! Thailand*. Singapore: Times Boioks International, 1990.
- Cornwel-Smith. *Everyday Popular Culture*. Bangkok: River Books, 2005.
- Embree, John F. "Thailand - A Loosely Structured Social System." *American Anthropologist* 52, no. 2 (Apr. - Jun., 1950): 181-193.
- Nidhi Eoseewong. "Thai Cultural Constitution." *Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia* 3 (March 2003): <http://kyotoreview.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp/issue/issue2/index.html>.

- Srisurang Poolthupya. "Social Change as Seen in Modern Thai Literature," in *Essays on Literature and Society in Southeast Asia: Political and Sociological Perspectives*. Tham Seong Chee (ed.), Singapore: Singapore University Press, 1981, pp.206-215
- Charnvit Kasetsiri. "Siam/Civilization – Thailand/Globalization: Things to come," in *Thammasat Review*, pp.114-133.
- Keyes, Charles F. *Thailand: Buddhist Kingdom as Modern Nation State*. Bangkok: Editions Duang Kamol, 1981.
- Girling, John L. S. *Interpreting Development: Capitalism, Democracy and the Middle Class in Thailand*. Ithaca, New York: Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University, 1996.
- Girling, John L. S. "Thailand in Gramscian Perspective." *Pacific Affairs* 57, no. 3 (1984): 385-403.
- Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker. *Thailand: Economy and Politics*. Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Thak Chaloehtiarana. *Thailand: the Politics of Despotism*. Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2007.
- Cohen, Erik. "Thailand in 'Touristic Transition'," in *Interconnected Worlds: Tourism in Southeast Asia*. Peggy Teo, T.C. Chang and K.C. Ho (eds.), Pergamon, 2001, pp.155-175.
- Hewison, Kevin. (ed.). *Political Change in Thailand: Democracy and Participation*. London and New York: Routledge, 1997.
- McCargo, Duncan., and Ukrist Pathmanand. *The Thaksization of Thailand*. Copenhagen: NIAS Press, 2005.
- Thanet Aphornsuvan. Origin of Malay Muslim "Separatism" in Southern Thailand," in *Thai South and Malay North: Ethnic Interactions on a Plural Peninsula*. Micheal J. Montesano and Patrick Jory (eds), Singapore: National University of Singapore Press, 2008, pp.91-123.
- Nidhi Eoseewong. *Pen and Sail: Literature and History in Early Bangkok*. Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2005.
- Pasuk Phongpaichit and Chris Baker. *A History of Thailand*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- Peleggi, Maurizio. *Thailand: The Worldly Kingdom*. London: Reaktion Books, 2007.