



**Mahidol University**  
International College

## **Course Syllabus**

**1. Program** International Relations and Global Affairs

**College** Mahidol University International College

**2. Course Code** ICGS 113/Summer

**Course Title** Perspectives on the Thai past

**3. Credits** 4

**4. Prerequisites** None

**5. Trimester** Summer Term

### **6. Course Description**

The course provides an introductory overview to Thailand: history, political economy and contemporary affairs. Lecture topics include Thai pre-history, the development of the modern Thai nation-state, the growth of Thai economy, environmental concerns, regional affairs and contemporary political developments.

### **7. Course Objectives**

The purpose of the course is to familiarize students with Thai political economy and to help them develop their knowledge of the kingdom and its people.

### **8. Teaching Methods**

Interactive lectures, class discussions, student presentations, optional field trips

### **9. Teaching Media**

Power Point slides, video clips, a selection of digital handouts

## 10. Evaluation

Assessment	Weight	Description
Participation	30%	Engagement
In-class activities	30%	Group discussions
Final presentation	40%	Team projects
Total	100%	

## 11. Grade Assessment

Grading will be undertaken using a traditional A-F (or P-F) basis.

## 12. Course Outline

\* A morning lecture followed by an afternoon reading-based discussion

Date	Topics	Hours	Activities
Class 1	Thai histories: official not-so-official Writing (and rewriting) the Thai past	4	
Class 2	Pre-history: Tai-kadai to Thai Tai kadai peoples in a regional context	4	
Class 3	Traditional society: polygyny, hierarchy, slavery # Lower-class lives matter	4	
Class 4	Traditional beliefs Buddhism and a whole lot of other stuff	4	
Class 5	Imperialism and political change True, Siam was never colonized but ...	4	
Class 6	Imperialism and economic change Hello, rice trade!	4	
Class 7	Environmental history The only history that really matters ...	4	
Class 8	Family and gender histories You're not in Kansas anymore Dorothy!	4	
Class 9	Nation-building The problem with 'top-down' ...	4	
Class 10	Cold War politics Or how to turn a fledgling democracy into a military dictatorship	4	
Class 11	Development Sorta worked, sorta didn't	4	
Class 12	Contemporary Affairs Some incredibly messy politics	4	

**\*Other format of learnings may be replaced under COVID-19**

### **13. Student Presentations**

Working in pairs, students will be asked to develop short (5-10 minute) multi-media/film presentations highlighting some aspect of their experience in Thailand. Grades will be assigned through peer and program coordinator assessments.

### **14. Course Coordinator**

Dr. Matthew Copeland

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