

Faculty :	Pridi Banomyong International College
Program :	Thai Studies Program
Level :	Undergraduate

Fall Semester 1 / 2025 (August - December)				
Course Code	Course	Credits	Course level	Course Description or link to Course Description
General Education Course				
PD201	Research Methods in Social Science	3	Undergraduate Only	This course provides an introduction to the concepts of social science research. Students will work towards writing a provisional research proposal. This will involve reading and reviewing relevant literature. Using social science methods such as surveys, ethnography, interviews as well as data analysis, students will formulate a provisional hypothesis about a subject of their choice and learn how research should be conducted in an ethical and thorough manner. The course is intended to facilitate student's awareness of the research process and how social scientists analyse, interpret, and make sense of the social world by implementing a variety of research methods, and critically reflect on the relationship of these methods to philosophical traditions within social science.
PD204	Great Books: Human Intellectual Development through Key Texts	3	Undergraduate Only	This course, based on well-regarded core curriculum courses at institutions such as Columbia University and the University of Chicago, aims to give students a grounding in intellectual and scientific history by way of studying great books. The reading list includes classic works in philosophy, literature, history, religion, economics and the history of science, from Greek classics and Sanskrit epics to Enlightenment-period masterpieces. The course will develop students' understanding of human intellectual history across regions as well as aiming to enhance critical thinking and academic reading and writing skills.
EL105	English Communication Skills	3	Undergraduate Only	Development of English listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, focusing on the ability to hold a conversation in exchanging opinions, as well as reading comprehension of academic texts from various disciplines related to students' field of study.
LAS101	Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing	3	Undergraduate Only	Development of critical thinking through questioning, analytical, synthetic and evaluation skills. Students learn how to read without necessarily accepting all the information presented in the text, but rather consider the content in depth, taking into account the objectives, perspectives, assumptions, bias and supporting evidence, as well as logic or strategies leading to the author's conclusion. The purpose is to apply these methods to students' own persuasive writing based on information researched from various sources, using effective presentation techniques.
TU100	Civil Engagement	3	Undergraduate Only	Instillation of social conscience and awareness of one's role and duties as a good global citizen. This is done through a variety of methods such as lectures, discussion of various case studies and field study outings. Students are required to organise a campaign to raise awareness or bring about change in an area of their interest.
TU101	Thailand, ASEAN, and the World	3	Undergraduate Only	Study of significant phenomena around the world, in the ASEAN region and in Thailand in terms of their political, economic and sociocultural dimensions. This is done through approaches, theories and principles of social science research via discussion and raising examples of situations or people of interest. The purpose of this is to create a perspective of diversity, to understand the complexity of global interrelationships, to build a global mindset and to be able to challenge old paradigms and open up a new, broader worldview.
TU103	Life and Sustainability	3	Undergraduate Only	This course provides an introduction to the importance of life-cycle systems perspectives in understanding major challenges and solutions to achieving more sustainable societies in this changing world. Students will learn about the relationship between mankind and the environment in the context of energy and resource use, consumption and development, and environmental constraints. Furthermore, an examination of social conflict and change from the life-cycle perspective will be used to develop an understanding of potential solution pathways for sustainable lifestyle modifications.
TU106	Creativity and Communication	3	Undergraduate Only	Creative thought processes, with critical thinking as an important part, as well as communication of these thoughts that lead to suitable results in social, cultural and environmental contexts, at personal, organisational and social levels.
PD102	Social Science in 21st Century	3	Undergraduate Only	This course introduces the social sciences which play an important role in 21st-century society. It focuses on important and fundamental disciplines, concepts and major theories concerning contemporary issues in an increasingly globalized and innovative world. In doing so, the course reconsiders social phenomena and issues and the extent to which society is the product of individual agency and the extent to which social structure determines individual behavior.
Thai Studies Course				
THS400	Seminars in Thai Studies	3	Undergraduate Only	A capstone course for fourth year students to be familiarized with and enter into participation with others as academics in the field. The central focus of the course is to allow students to pursue topics of their interest in Thai Studies, discover and present their own positions, as well as engage in debates and discussions with others of the same field. By the end of the course students will have improved their skills in critical thinking, data analysis, researching via digital means, argumentative reasoning, persuasive writing, presentation skills and rhetoric using a wide variety of media. This course further develops students' ability to use the intellectual and physical resources required for life-long learning in a wide-range of related fields. The course encourages students to recognize and critically engage with alternative values. It fosters individual responsibility and initiative taking. This course allows students to design and execute their own research projects.
PSE425	Student Seminars on Current Issues in Southeast Asia <i>*Tentative</i>	3	Undergraduate Only	The research and discussion-based course will provide students with the opportunity to thoroughly explore different sides of the significant and persistent issues in Southeast Asia selected by the lecturer. Through the consideration of a variety of opinions and perspectives, students will be able to take and defend their own positions through presentations and debates within the class. By the end of the course students will have improved their skills in critical thinking, data analysis, researching via digital means, argumentative reasoning, persuasive writing, presentation skills and rhetoric using a wide variety of media.

PSE325	Development of Southeast Asia *Tentative	3	Undergraduate Only	Southeast Asia as a region recognisable to geographers, planners, and politicians only came into being fully-formed during the Second World War, yet the ties that bound it together through the demands of a water-dominated geography, commerce, culture and religion have been forged, shaped and reformed over centuries. This course provides students with the deep historical background and development of the countries that came to constitute the region of Southeast Asia and form the basis of the regional organization, ASEAN. By the end of the course students will have improved their skills in critical thinking, data analysis, researching via digital means, argumentative reasoning, persuasive writing, presentation skills and rhetoric using a wide variety of media.
THS312	Gender and Sexuality in Thailand	3	Undergraduate Only	This course seeks to go beyond such fantasies to examine historical and contemporary forms of gender and eroticism. Through film, literature and contemporary media we will examine the interpretation of gender roles, explore representations of intimate relationships and query debates on homosexuality and transgender issues. By the end of the course students will have improved their skills in critical thinking, data analysis, researching via digital means, argumentative reasoning, persuasive writing, presentation skills and rhetoric using a wide variety of media. The course encourages students to recognize and critically engage with alternative values.
THS310	Thai Literature	3	Undergraduate Only	One can learn a great deal about Thailand from its literature, not least because the country has had a history of censorship and political repression. As a result, Thai literature often serves as a surrogate for social and political commentary and criticism. We study classical texts from the early Bangkok period, follow the country's transition to modernity as well as uncover the social criticism of the cold war period and beyond. By the end of the course students will have improved their skills in critical thinking, literary analysis, argumentative reasoning, persuasive writing, presentation skills and rhetoric using a wide variety of media. This course introduces students to the intellectual and physical resources required for life-long learning. The course encourages students to recognize and critically engage with alternative values.
THS313	Anthropology of Thailand: Ethnicity, Margins, Inclusion *Tentative	3	Undergraduate Only	This course turns a critical eye to some key issues uncovered by anthropology in Thailand and included field work on a topic of the student's choice. By the end of the course students will have improved their skills in critical thinking, data analysis, researching via digital means, argumentative reasoning, persuasive writing, presentation skills and rhetoric using a wide variety of media. This course introduces students to the intellectual and physical resources required for life-long learning in a wide-range of related fields. The course encourages students to recognize and critically engage with alternative values. It fosters individual responsibility and initiative taking. This course allows students to design and execute their own research projects.
THS300	Economic Development of Thailand *Tentative	3	Undergraduate Only	How can we understand the features of the Thai economy today? By examining how it came to be and looking into its development over time. This course provides students with a course in Thailand's economic history, exploring the pre-modern Thai economy of Ayutthaya as a commercial entrepot, to the colonial-oriented economy of the nineteenth and early twentieth century to diversification under state intervention in the era of economic nationalism of the 1930s to the 1950s and subsequent promotion of the private sector, to the boom, bust and recovery years of the 1990s and 2000s. Students will be reacquainted with introductory economics and particularly the branch of development economics which will serve as the source of theoretical approaches throughout the course. Students will come away with an understanding of how Thailand's economy came to be, greater confidence in operating within it, and where the economy may go in future. By the end of the course students will have improved their skills in critical thinking, data analysis, researching via digital means, argumentative reasoning, persuasive writing, presentation skills and rhetoric using a wide variety of media. This course allows students to further develop their skills in economic analysis and they will be given the opportunity to design and execute their own research projects
THS200	Thai History	3	Undergraduate Only	This course takes students on a journey through successive human occupations in the Chao Phraya River basin, from a pre-Tai period to early Tai migrations, Sukhothai, Ayutthaya and Bangkok, providing students with an essential foundation to the understanding of modern-day Thailand. This course not only introduces students to the history of Thailand but also to the discipline of history itself. In doing so, students will understand that while facts exist, what facts are selected and how they are interpreted will depend on the historian and his or her sponsors. Students will appreciate the varieties of Thai history, moving beyond the merely political to social and cultural history of Thai (and Tai) speaking-peoples and how they have interacted with their neighbours. By the end of the course students will have improved their skills in critical thinking, data analysis, researching via digital means, argumentative reasoning and persuasive writing. This course introduces students to the intellectual and physical resources required for life-long learning about history and the ways in which history informs the present.
THS201	Society and Culture of Thailand	3	Undergraduate Only	This course investigates the diverse aspects of contemporary Thai society and culture based upon case studies from social science research by Thai and international scholars which emphasize analytical and critical approaches. It explores the issue of persistence and change and asks whether the abstract concept of 'Thainess' can be satisfactorily defined. This course allows students to design and execute their own research projects. By the end of the course students will have improved their skills in critical thinking, data analysis, researching via digital means, argumentative reasoning, persuasive writing, presentation skills and rhetoric using a wide variety of media. This course introduces students to the intellectual and physical resources required for life-long learning in a wide-range of related fields. The course encourages students to recognize and critically engage with alternative values. It fosters individual responsibility and initiative taking.
THS100	Academic Reading and Writing	3	Undergraduate Only	Topic sentences, paragraph indentations, citations, hooks and clinchers. This course is a preparation for academic reading and writing through intensive practice and feedback. By the end of the course students will have improved their skills in critical thinking, researching via digital means and argumentative reasoning and persuasive writing.
PDL100	Elementary Thai	3	Undergraduate Only	This course emphasizes fundamental language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing through Thai culture. The students are not required to have prior knowledge of the Thai language. At the end of the course, the students are expected to be able to: - converse in Thai with a basic structure. - read non-complex words and sentences.
THS211	Thai Cuisine	3	Undergraduate Only	Enter the sensuous world of one of the world's great cuisines in a course both theoretical and practical. Students will get behind the flavourful philosophy and origins of Thai cuisine as well as its basic techniques and ingredients. They will gain hand-on experience of the methods of blending and balancing the varied flavors to create a stimulating array of tastes. Demonstrations are included.
THS210	Thai Dance and Music	3	Undergraduate Only	This course examines the principles and fundamental theories of Thai Dance, as well as providing students with demonstrations of standard Thai Dance for further learning. Students will be introduced to the basic elements of music, the art of music, stylistic characteristics and a brief overview of the history of Western and Southeast Asian classical music, folk music, and period music. Students will develop their capacity to understand and appreciate the place of music in society.
THS213	Thai Traditional Medicine and Massage *Tentative	3	Undergraduate Only	This course examines the rich history and development of traditional Thai medicine, its theoretical concepts, and the various types of treatment using herbs, massage, herbal sauna, and other curative applications. Students also learn how traditional Thai medicine and health care has been integrated into the country's health care system. The course provides the basic knowledge of human anatomy and physiology required for Thai massage, its history, benefits, limitations, steps and postures as well as the place of Thai massage in contemporary culture. Practical demonstrations are included.

Spring Semester 2 / 2025 (January - May)

Course Code	Course	Credits	Course level	Course Description or link to Course Description
General Education Course				
PD101	Introduction to Area Studies and It's Methodology	3	Undergraduate Only	This course introduces area studies as a practical interdisciplinary approach to the study of regions and countries of the world. The course provides the student with an awareness of what the study of areas of the world entails and the theoretical and methodological discussions of global phenomena. The course focuses on how our understanding of regions and countries can be enhanced through social sciences and humanities perspectives and how knowledge of language, history and culture constitutes the basis of area studies.
PD103	Humanities in the Age of Disruption	3	Undergraduate Only	An introduction to the humanities, through a review of some of the major developments in culture. The goal is for students to understand how contemporary human issues can be understood through the arts, literature, music, religion, philosophy and history. In doing so, the course reconsiders the underlying assumptions of our human existence, formed in the age of digital technology.
PD104	The Path of Modernity and Globalization	3	Undergraduate Only	The course introduces students to forces that shaped the modern world and the development of a modern global society, from the sixteenth century to the present. It explores the major critical junctures that placed human society on a path towards modernity. It examines the linkages between society, economics, politics, administration, culture, and science and technology as the foundation for globalization.
PD202	Introduction to the Global Economy	3	Undergraduate Only	Globalization is a phenomenon of both willing convergence and local resistance on the stage of the global economy. This course provides students with an overview of the fundamental aspects of the global economy. The importance of international trade and finance, as well as the conflict between free trade and market protection will be discussed. In doing so, students will acquire a basic understanding of key economic terms and concepts in relation to international economics, from bilateral trade to economic regionalism. Using these approaches, they will explore and assess the range of different policies that address the challenges the world economy is facing. By the end of the course, students will be able to analyze the links between trade, economic growth, and globalization and will be able to analyze current global economic problems.
PD203	International Organizations and Geopolitics	3	Undergraduate Only	The course allows students to explore the major international organizations through the study of their evolution, structures, and roles in the dealings of different issues in the international system. At the same time, a geopolitical emphasis is placed to better understand the struggle of nation-states for power, influence, territory, and resources and the impact of that behaviour on the practices of global and regional cooperation.
TU100	Civil Engagement	3	Undergraduate Only	Instillation of social conscience and awareness of one's role and duties as a good global citizen. This is done through a variety of methods such as lectures, discussion of various case studies and field study outings. Students are required to organise a campaign to raise awareness or bring about change in an area of their interest.
TU108	Self Development and Management	3	Undergraduate Only	Coping with and adaptation to university life. Development of social skill and emotional intelligence. Self understanding and planning for the future. Personality and social etiquette. Learning to live harmoniously and respectfully with others and the society.
Thai Studies Course				
THS211	Thai Cuisine	3	Undergraduate Only	Enter the sensuous world of one of the world's great cuisines in a course both theoretical and practical. Students will get behind the flavourful philosophy and origins of Thai cuisine as well as its basic techniques and ingredients. They will gain hand-on experience of the methods of blending and balancing the varied flavors to create a stimulating array of tastes. Demonstrations are included.
THS401	Media and Entertainment in Thailand: Celebrities, Cinema, and Censorship	3	Undergraduate Only	Print media, television and cinema have shaped modern societies, formed the court of 'public opinion' and contributed to the rise and fall of governments. This course provides students with a survey of the features and the role of the mass media in Thai society. We will look at national policies on media, control, censorship and the relationship between the media, the government, and the public, as well as other institutions. The course asks what the media's rights and responsibilities are, or should be, to society. By the end of the course students will have improved their skills in critical thinking, data analysis, researching via digital means, argumentative reasoning, persuasive writing, presentation skills and rhetoric using a wide variety of media. This course provides students the opportunity to develop their skills in working in groups. It allows students to design and execute their own research projects.
THS210	Thai Dance and Music	3	Undergraduate Only	This course examines the principles and fundamental theories of Thai Dance, as well as providing students with demonstrations of standard Thai Dance for further learning. Students will be introduced to the basic elements of music, the art of music, stylistic characteristics and a brief overview of the history of Western and Southeast Asian classical music, folk music, and period music. Students will develop their capacity to understand and appreciate the place of music in society.
PSE329	Cultural Diversity, Ethnicity and Identity in Southeast Asia	3	Undergraduate Only	Southeast Asia is a diverse and dynamic region of the world with shared trajectories as the countries in the region face the challenges of state-formation, nationalism, and the influence of globalization. Amid the trends, the course examines the case studies of Southeast Asian states' attempts to manage the emergence of majorities and minorities. The students will be able to explore the concepts of ethnicity, identity politics, representation as well as understand the minorities' struggles for survival, self-determination and legal recognition in relation to the state in which they live. By the end of the course students will have improved their skills in critical thinking, data analysis, researching via digital means, argumentative reasoning, persuasive writing, presentation skills and rhetoric using a wide variety of media.
PSE326	Socio-cultural Issues in ASEAN	3	Undergraduate Only	While the security and economic pillars of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are prioritized in the states' interactions with each other, the understated socio-cultural pillar is the foundation to their attempt to create a regional identity. The course examines the region's arduous people-centered task to create the ASEAN community through the investigation into the Southeast Asian states' societal and cultural evolutions as well as issues including human rights, environment, epidemics, poverty, and gender. By the end of the course students will have improved their skills in critical thinking, data analysis, researching via digital means, argumentative reasoning, persuasive writing, presentation skills and rhetoric using a wide variety of media.

PSE425	Student Seminars on Current Issues in Southeast Asia	3	Undergraduate Only	The research and discussion-based course will provide students with the opportunity to thoroughly explore different sides of the significant and persistent issues in Southeast Asia selected by the lecturer. Through the consideration of a variety of opinions and perspectives, students will be able to take and defend their own positions through presentations and debates within the class. By the end of the course students will have improved their skills in critical thinking, data analysis, researching via digital means, argumentative reasoning, persuasive writing, presentation skills and rhetoric using a wide variety of media.
THS202	Thai Sociolinguistics: Languages, Society and Meaning	3	Undergraduate Only	This course examines the history and development of the Central Thai language, its origins among the Tai language families of Southern China, contemporary related regional dialects, and its relationship with neighbouring Southeast Asian languages, such as Khmer and Mon. The course explores the use of contemporary Thai language and its dialects in contexts where speakers seek to determine social or speech group differentiation, the phenomenon of codes and code switching, register, sociolect and accent, how Thai has been taught to Thai citizens and foreigners and issues of national identity and politicisation. This course provides students of Thai Studies with a clearer understanding of contemporary Thai cultural and social life. By the end of the course students will have improved their skills in critical thinking, data analysis, researching via digital means, argumentative reasoning, persuasive writing, presentation skills and rhetoric using a wide variety of media. This course further develops understanding and use of the fundamentals of effective communication. Students are provided with the opportunity to develop their skills in joint projects working in pairs and in groups. It allows students to design and execute their own research projects.
THS203	Thai Politics	3	Undergraduate Only	This course takes students deep into the dramatic and fascinating world of Thai Politics. Students will explore the contemporary political situation and the internal and external dynamics of change and continuity in Thai Politics from the pre-modern state through to the formation of the modern state under an Absolute Monarchy and subsequently a Constitutional Monarchy. The course also introduces students to the development of reflections on politics in pre-modern Asia through to the development of Western political thought and the emergence of political science and scrutinizes their applicability to Thai politics in the context of Thailand's given cultural and historical trajectory. The course looks into the role of the various interest groups and actors, including the state administrative apparatus, civilian and military, the business sector, and civil society. By the end of the course students will have improved their skills in critical thinking, data analysis, researching via digital means, argumentative reasoning, persuasive writing, presentation skills and rhetoric using a wide variety of media. The course encourages students to recognize and critically engage with alternative values.
THS204	Buddhism in Thailand	3	Undergraduate Only	The story of the Buddha has come for some to be a story of authenticity, individualism and wisdom-seeking. Yet it has not always been so. Buddhism in Thailand has followed a gamut of historical changes, from promoting monarchy through monumental architecture to modernization and meditation to, at times, being a handmaiden of military rule. It has often in Thailand been accompanied by narratives of ghosts and dark magic, as well as of tiger-defying monks and romantic tales of bodhisattvas. By stressing how Buddhism has changed in Thailand over time and place, this course aims to look critically rather than romantically or conservatively at what Buddhism has been in Thailand over the centuries, of how it has tied itself to and reflected the desires, fears and political wills of its followers.
THS314	Doing Business in Thailand *Tentative	3	Undergraduate Only	This course navigates the business landscape of Thailand looking at the possibilities and potential for enterprise given Thailand's business culture of management, leadership and work, business-related legal infrastructure, taxation, human capital, domestic and established foreign markets, given resources and its technological stage. Students will therefore acquire knowledge in both the contemporary situation and a variety of practical technical skills that will assist them in a future career in entrepreneurship in Thailand. By the end of the course students will have improved their skills in critical thinking, data analysis, researching via digital means, argumentative reasoning, persuasive writing, presentation skills and rhetoric using a wide variety of media. This course introduces students to the intellectual and physical resources required for life-long learning in a wide-range of related fields. It fosters individual responsibility and initiative taking. This course allows students to design and execute their own research projects.
THS101	Power of the Land: Geography of Thailand	3	Undergraduate Only	How much does the physical landscape influence a country's history, culture and society? How important is the strength of a river's current in the development of a major political centre? What sort of economy is possible with the given resources of a country? This course introduces students to the geography of Thailand, its natural resources, its flora and fauna and the human response to it. Knowledge of a country's geography is fundamental to understanding its economy, culture, and politics. This course therefore gives students the basis they require for tackling other aspects of Thai Studies. This course introduces students to the intellectual resources required for life-long learning in the fields of cultural and physical geography. The course encourages students to recognize and critically engage with alternative values as well as, via practical and teamwork projects, fostering individual responsibility and initiative taking.
PDL100	Elementary Thai	3	Undergraduate Only	This course emphasizes fundamental language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing through Thai culture. The students are not required to have prior knowledge of the Thai language. At the end of the course, the students are expected to be able to: - converse in Thai with a basic structure. - read non-complex words and sentences.
PDL200	Lower Intermediate Thai	3	Undergraduate Only	Course aims to build on acquired proficiency at the elementary level towards achieving more fluency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing through Thai socio-cultural skills. The intermediate level introduces new vocabulary and grammar through communicative tasks and text readings, mainly using the situational -communicative methodology. Students are required to have completed Elementary Thai. At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to: - conduct small talk with native speakers - read short paragraphs in Thai. - converse in Thai on certain common topics