

Payap University
Thai and Southeast Asian Studies Program

Course: **SA367** Semester: **Spring** Year: **2004-2005**

Course title: **Peoples, Societies and Culture of Lanna**

Prerequisite: **None**

Credits: **3**

Meeting times: **Tues & Thurs, 9-12**

Instructor: **Dr. Bonnie Brereton**

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Course description

Lanna (sometimes spelled Lan Na and literally meaning “a million rice fields”) refers to the northern region of Thailand, which prior to the early 20th century was a composite of small city states, inhabited by diverse peoples at different times, each of whom contributed distinct traits to the present cultural milieu. The course will examine the movements of these ethnic groups, their languages, religious forms, and other cultural manifestations through lectures, informed discussions, guest speakers and field trips. There will also be opportunities – depending on the interests of those enrolled – to practice northern music, dance and handicrafts.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course the student:

- 1) Will be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of the peoples and cultures of the Lanna region,
- 2) Will have developed an appreciation for the significance of Lanna culture in the past and present,
- 3) Will be able to analyze and explain aspects of Lanna peoples, religious forms and cultural manifestations.

Course Schedule (subject to change; there will be additional handouts); students are expected to read the assignments *before* the class during which they'll be discussed.

Week 1: (Feb 22 & 24) - Background to Northern Thailand: the Place, People and Their History; A View of Lan Na 50 years ago; the Role of Buddhism in Lan Na History and Daily Life

Assignment:

Feb 22- Davis, Richard. *Muang Metaphysics*, 23-38, 72-85

Feb 24 - Potter, Sulamith. *Family Life in a Northern Thai Village*. 23-98.

Week 2: (March 1 & 3)- Material Culture: Temples, Sculpture and Textiles

Assignment:

March 1 - Freeman, Michael. *Lanna: Thailand's Northern Kingdom*, 8-55; Stratton, Carol. *Buddhist Sculpture of Northern Thailand*; xix-xxi, 2-56

March 3 - Conway, Susan. *Thai Textiles*, 41-59, 134-155.

Week 3: (March 8 & 10) – Buddhism and Animism

Assignment:

March 8 - Muecke, Marjorie. "Monks and Mediums: Religious Syncretism in Northern Thailand," in *JSS*, vol. 80, pt 2, 97-104; Kamala Tiyanich, *Forest Recollections*, 1-46, 106-126

Week 4: (March 15 & 17) - Northern Excursion: Minority Ethnic Groups

Assignment :reading on ethnic groups : Kampe, Ken. "Indigenous Peoples of Southeast Asia"; Renard, Ronald, "The Making of a Problem: Narcotics in Mainland Southeast Asia," in *Development or Domestication: Indigenous Peoples of Southeast Asia*

Week 5: (March 22 & 24) – Nature – Mountains and the Forest: Then and Now

Assignment: Chaturawong, Chotima. "The Architecture of Burmese Buddhist Monasteries in Upper Burma and Northern Thailand: The Biography of Trees," PhD dissertation, Cornell University, 289-303; Swearer, Donald K., Sommai Premchit;, et al. *Sacred Mountains of Northern Thailand and Their Legends*. Darlington, Susan. "The Ordination of a Tree: The Buddhist Ecology Movement in Thailand." *Ethnology*. 37.1, 1998

Week 6: (March 29 & 31) - Nonmaterial Culture: The Role of Stories, Songs and Rituals; Cultural Renaissance, Tourism & Comodification: The Emergence of New Cultural Forms

Assignment: TBA

Week 7: (April 5 & 7) –Independent Projects

Week 8: (March 12 & 14) – Songkran Holiday

Week 9 (March 19) – Student Reports

Week 10: (April 26) – Final Exam

Teaching Methodology

Lectures

Classroom discussion

Student assignments (readings, class room presentation, written reports, field trips).

Course Evaluation

Grades will be based on the following percentages:

Class attendance and participation	20%
Midterm exam	40%
Final exam (including report)	40%

Grading Scale

90-100	A
85-89	B+
80-84	B
75-79	C+
70-74	C
65-69	D+
60-64	D
< 60	F

80% class attendance is required for all PYU courses