

## OVERVIEW

The Thammasat University, School of Global Studies Summer Program offers qualified undergraduate students an opportunity to take credit classes through a mix of academic sessions and immersion in local border communities on the Thai-Myanmar border. The Summer Program focuses on “Border Health” with the aim to appreciate and understand the complexity of border health as well as its link with population mobility (refugees, displaced persons, migrants, etc.) It intends to address health, mobility complex issues and adopt creative analytical and problem-solving approaches.

The Summer Program is designed in such way that students have the opportunity to engage in discussions with experts, spend time in the field – including a few nights in home stay within the community -- and work as a team, mentored by faculty and professionals.

Through a Student-Centered Learning approaches, the immersion phase transforms the course into a memorable experiential learning.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Passport Photocopy
- Health Clearance Form
- University of California's Application Form
- On-line form of the School of Global Studies



# BORDER HEALTH SUMMER COURSE



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*These past three weeks I have spent in the Ban Parai Nua community have definitely been one of the best experiences of my life. I have learned way more than I thought I ever would, and I did so in a completely unique and innovative way.*

– Isabelle Marshall –

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## COURSE AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The “Border Health” Summer Course program at Thammasat University comprises two courses totalizing 6 credits:

The “**Health Realities in Border Populations**” will examine how social determinants and their interactions translate into health realities for border populations, including barriers encountered in terms of health promotion, prevention and access to care; the course generates ideas for innovative interventions.

The “**Geopolitical Realities in Populations in Transition**” introduces students to challenges and opportunities related to security, human rights, and wellbeing of populations along the Thai-Myanmar border. Special attention is paid to explore the role of social determinants of wellbeing in the context of globalization and population mobility.

## COURSE SYLLABUS:

### WEEK 1 (on university campus)

#### Course Introduction

#### Thai Culture and Language orientation

- Getting to know Thailand (Do's and Don'ts, etc.)
- Thai culture and traditions; Cultural orientation field trip
- Introduction to Meditation; Team building activities
- [Optional (evenings)] Thai language tutoring: learning to write, read, and speak Thai.

### WEEK 2 (on university campus)

#### GS392: Geopolitics Realities in Populations in Transition

- Human Migration; Migration Laws & the International System
- Human Trafficking; Labor Rights for Migrant Workers
- From the Borders to the cities: Social Impact of Urban Migration
- Political and Economic realities on the Thai-Myanmar Border (the Special Economic Zone and its implications)
- Health security for migrants, refugee & internally displaced populations



1. May be subject to mild changes.



## LEARNING Beyond BORDERS

- International Civil Society Response to Migrants & Refugees on the Thai/Myanmar Border
- Migrant Child Protection

#### GS391: Health Realities in Border Populations

- Introduction to Public Health & Global Health key concepts and practices
- Understanding Migrant Health; Seeking Asylum; Political Chaos & the Health Consequences
- Epidemics, pandemics & emerging diseases; Controlling outbreak diseases across borders
- Migration Health Service System in Thailand: Situation, Response & Challenges in a rapidly changing context

#### Generic Issues common to both courses

- Globalization, Geo-Politics and Mobility
- Third Country Refugee Resettlement Health Policy & Program
- Introduction to anthropology observation methods.

#### Design Lab: Field Study Preparation

- Introduction to the field practicum
- Field learning: methodologies and mindsets
- Deep listening; Empathy walk; Reflection
- Field learning: summary of key points
- Examination on the Bangkok-based lectures
- Flight to Mae Sot; field immersion starts.

### WEEK 3 (Field)

- Immersion design
- Introduction of and orientation by the course field preceptors
- Human Resources Capacity Development: Delivering Services to Migrant Populations Where There are no Doctors
- Introduction to PLA (Participatory Learning and Action)
- Identifying problem or potentials; Understanding Local Strengths

## LEARNING Through IMMERSION

- Prototyping development & Start prototyping
- Home stay (6 nights)

### WEEK 4 & 6 (Field)

#### Field Study through Community Immersion

The field learning allows students to gain deeper understanding of the challenges of mobility and border health, through the conduct of qualitative data collection and the observation of the reality on the ground, notably during a home stay in the community. Students will be divided into teams and will be exposed to different field sites located on the Thai/Myanmar border. The process involves learning from various stakeholders in the communities, as well as from existing interventions of the field preceptors and other field experts.

The Field Preceptors -- from community-based organizations (CBO), non-government organizations (NGOs) and field branch of academia -- who provide direct support to the Thai/Myanmar border migrant populations -- engage in the program as teaching/learning partners; they share their field knowledge and experiences, connect students to key stakeholders in the communities and local organizations, and mentor students throughout their projects.

### WEEK 5 (Field)

- Design Lab & Field Immersion (cont'd)
- Introduction to Design Lab
- Synthesis: translate data into meaningful insights and define opportunities for design
- Ideation workshop; Prototyping & Testing workshop
- Field Study in the Community (cont'd)

### WEEK 6 (Field)

- Field Study: Field immersion & Debriefing to the Community
- Field immersion
- Presenting findings (and prototype) to the communities
- Debriefing & Mentoring session

### WEEK 7 (Field/University campus)

- Flight back to Thammasat University, Bangkok
- Final Academic Presentation
- Academic presentation of the team's findings to the faculty
- Overall course feedback / informal sharing of experience / Evaluation forms
- Farewell party