

**Course Number and Name:**

NURS 300V / EDUC 300DD -Service Learning in Thailand

**Trip Dates:**

Monday, May 4, 2009 to Tuesday, May 26, 2009.

**Faculty:**

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Assistant Professor, School of Nursing and Health Sciences

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Associate Professor, School of Education

**Course Description:**

The focus of this course will be understanding the educational, health and developmental needs of rural Thai citizens as well as indigenous populations through cultural immersion and active participation in service projects designed to provide benefits to the local peoples. Students will participate in service projects in two distinct rural Thai villages, one near the Burmese border in Mae Sot, Thailand, and one in the rural Northeast near Khon Kaen, Thailand, that will help alleviate some of the health, educational and developmental issues present while staying with local families within the villages.

The village on the Burmese border is a very remote rural village deep in the hills, populated mostly by indigenous hill tribes of the area. The school we will be assisting is K-6, and is the only school for hundreds of square kilometers. It has no electricity other than what is provided by solar panels, and no running water. Sanitary conditions are poor at best, and there is much work needed on dormitory space and sanitary facilities. The project we will be working on is creating a library for the students, as well as building additional sanitary facilities. We will be staying at the village with families or at the school. Students should be prepared for and comfortable with life in a rural Thai village with no indoor plumbing or electricity. Safe drinking water and food will be provided for the students for the duration of stay at the village.

The village outside of Khon Kaen is in the rural Northeast part of Thailand, and is an agricultural village. As is most of the rural Northeast, it is generally less wealthy than the rest of the country, and rural life is little changed. There is electricity off the grid in this village, but

little indoor plumbing. We will be staying in homes in the village during the stay. Service projects here will consist of assisting the local primary school, as well as assisting villagers with agricultural planting. We will also participate in a cultural ceremony blessing and celebrating the start of the planting season.

Other activities will include tours of historically significant sites in Thailand from the Sukhothai and Angkor periods as well as spending a day with Burmese refugee children at a refugee school and visiting an HIV/AIDS hospice. Students will be expected to enroll in a 1-credit class during Spring Semester that will prepare them for the experience. Course assignments will include reflective journaling, active discussions during the trip, and a reflective multimedia project at the end of the trip.

Students will be required to meet at times TBA on campus during Spring Semester to prepare for the trip. This will introduce students to concepts in international development and service, the roles of government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in international development, planning international service projects, and fundraising for international service projects. It will also prepare students at a practical level for travel and extended stays in foreign countries. Students will be introduced to aspects of Southeast Asian culture, how to stay healthy in tropical climates, how to stay safe in foreign nations, social interaction in foreign cultures, as well as what to bring, how to pack, appropriate behavior and other practical matters to assure a successful trip abroad. By the conclusion of the meetings, students will have prepared a service plan for the trip.

Please note that accommodations at the villages will be rustic. We will be staying in local homes, usually with no indoor plumbing and no electricity. Toilet facilities will consist of outhouses with “squat” toilets. Showers facilities will not generally be available.

However, we will be staying in comfortable hotels when not staying at the villages. The hotel rooms will be double occupancy.

## Dates

<b>On-campus meeting dates and times</b>	TBA	
<b>Travel dates</b>	Monday, May 4, 2009 to Tuesday, May 26, 2009	
<b>Itinerary</b> As detailed as possible	<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
	Monday, May 4	Depart SLC, UT for Bangkok, Thailand
	Wednesday, May 6	Arrive in Bangkok, Thailand Orientation and information session Welcome dinner
	Thursday, May 7	Sightseeing in Bangkok
	Friday, May 8	Depart Bangkok for Khorat, Thailand Sightseeing at Pimai Historical Park Arrive in Kalasin, Thailand
	Saturday, May 9	Village project and activities
	Sunday, May 10	Village project and activities
	Monday, May 11	Village project and activities
	Tuesday, May 12	Royal Plowing Ceremony by Brahman Priests
	Wednesday, May 13	Depart Kalasin for Sukhothai, Thailand Sightseeing at Sukhothai Historical Park Arrive in Sukhothai, Thailand
	Thursday, May 14	Depart Sukhothai for Mae Sot, Thailand Arrive in Mae Sot, Thailand Visit Mae Tao Refugee Clinic
	Friday, May 15	Visit Mae Tao Refugee School
	Saturday, May 16	Depart Mae Sot for village Village project and activities
	Sunday, May 17	Village project and activities
	Monday, May 18	Village project and activities
	Tuesday, May 19	Depart village for Kamphaeng Phet, Thailand Arrive in Kamphaeng Phet, Thailand

		Visit Kamphaeng Phet Historical Park
	Wednesday, May 20	Depart Kamphaeng Phet for Bangkok, Thailand Visit HIV/AIDS hospice in Lop Buri, Thailand Arrive in Bangkok, Thailand
	Thursday, May 21	Depart Bangkok for Ko Samet, Thailand Arrive Ko Samet, Thailand
	Friday, May 22	Free Day
	Saturday, May 23	Free Day
	Sunday, May 24	Depart Ko Samet for Bangkok, Thailand Arrive in Bangkok, Thailand
	Monday, May 25	Depart Bangkok for SLC, UT
	Tuesday, May 26	Arrive in SLC, UT

### Prerequisites:

None

### Course Objectives Related to Program Outcome(s):

1. Students will learn the tools needed to travel and serve in developing countries in Asia, with an emphasis on culturally competency. Students will also learn advocacy skills for change in the developing world.
2. Students will understand the developmental needs of rural developing countries, including social, health, education and economic needs of remote, rural villages in Thailand. Students understand the importance of sustainable development utilizing local knowledge and resources.
3. Students will analyze issues regarding the needs and rights of indigenous cultures and peoples in developing countries.
4. Students will develop critical, analytical and integrative thinking by designing and participating in service projects in underdeveloped rural Thai villages. Students discuss and debate different approaches to development in developing nations.
5. Students will practice their reflective and creative capacities by actively journaling about their experiences as well as discussing their thoughts and feelings experienced during the trip in open discussion groups. Furthermore, students will prepare as a group a multimedia reflective project using video, audio and still photography taken during the trip.

6. Students will develop global consciousness through every aspect of the trip, from the side trips to historic sites, AIDS hospices and refugee schools to the actual service projects and home stays with local families. Students will learn to apply their global consciousness to enhance their ability to frame local issues in a global context.

### **Required Texts:**

Select Articles.

### **Methodology:**

This course will consist of active participation in service projects as well as interactions with our hosts. There will be daily discussions throughout the trip to review the events of the day and prepare for the next day. Students will be required to journal every day on their experiences, as well as prepare for a final multimedia reflective project by gathering still photography, audio and video.

Grades will be determined using the following criteria:

Participation in discussions and service projects	20%
Daily journaling	40%
Final multimedia reflective project	40%

Readings will be assigned prior to the trip for discussion on concepts in global service and development, including articles on the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in development, the rights of native and indigenous peoples, the balance between traditional lifestyle and economic development, the importance of locally sustainable development, economic tools such as microloans, and the role of wealthy nations in assisting developing nations.

Students will be expected to present their final multimedia reflective project upon return from Thailand in a college-wide presentation open to everyone. The projects will be presented between May 26 and May 29, 2008, after returning from Thailand.

## Grading Calculation:

Class Assignments	20%
Class Participation	20%
Book Review	20%
Final Report and Presentation	40%
Total	100%

Grading criteria for this course as follows:

- 90% of total points is the cutoff for A-
- 80% of total points is the cutoff for B-
- 70% of total points is the cutoff for C-