

## SPRING/MAYMESTER 2022

### *Natural Hazards in a Developing Nation: How Does Thailand Respond*

*[Spring 2022: Geosc 397; 2 credits (Honors),*

*Maymester 2022: Geosc 499; 0.25 credit (Honors)]*

Pre-Trip Lectures/Meetings: Spring 2022 (Day and Time to be determined)  
[tentatively scheduled for Wednesday 3:35 - 5:30 Room 240 Deike; this  
can change based on student schedules]

Maymester Trip: May 10 - 29, 2022 - Thailand

Instructor: Kevin P. Furlong 863-0567  
413 Deike Building [kpf1@psu.edu](mailto:kpf1@psu.edu)

Kirsty A McKenzie (co-leader)  
(814) 515-8034. [kam724@psu.edu](mailto:kam724@psu.edu)

Course Website: Canvas

Text: *Reading materials for the class will be from published literature  
and other materials made available and/or found on-line*

Thailand is a rapidly growing nation with a long and rich cultural history. It is an economic leader in Southeast Asia, but has major vulnerabilities related to natural hazards. This course will explore the range of hazards facing Thailand, their implications for future growth, and how this developing nation deals with such hazards scientifically, economically, and societally. The course will combine classroom lectures and activities during Spring, 2019 with a 3 week trip to Thailand during Maymester, 2019 to explore these issues in detail.

#### Credits and Grading:

The course is partitioned into two components - a 2-credit, on-campus course (Geosc 397) that will meet during the Spring Semester 2022, and a 0.25-credit, 3-week segment (Geosc 499) held in Thailand during Maymester 2022. Both courses will earn Honors Credit for applicable students. The credits are distributed in this way to reduce costs (to the student) and meet PSU requirements for post-semester travel. Grades will be based

on performance and participation for the combined courses, and will be assigned upon return from the Maymester trip. All students must participate in both the Spring Semester and Maymester portions to receive a grade for the course.

The major components of the course grade will come from:

1. Participation in pre-trip meetings and activities, including preparation of background materials and presentations to the group;
2. Full and Engaged Participation in the Thailand trip, including presentation of materials and leading of discussions on topics researched by each individual, on site;
3. Blog, diary, or other mode communicating activities, events, discoveries or other important information learned during the trip; and
4. Final synthesis of an aspect of the course (in the form of a mini-project) developed by and produced by individual class members (may involve small teams as appropriate). These projects will be proposed and prepared for during the Spring 2022 segment of the course.

All course materials will be completed prior to our departure from Thailand on May 29, 2022

***Policy on Academic Integrity:***

All students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity in their coursework. In particular occurrences of plagiarism or other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. For this course, in which collaboration and group work is encouraged it is sometimes confusing as to where is the boundary between acceptable and unacceptable practices. As a general rule it is not appropriate to present work of others as your own. If you have worked jointly on an exercise or project it is important to identify each person's contribution. If the work is truly collaborative that should be so indicated. Penn State has a variety of sites discussing academic integrity, the two below provide information both the University and EMS policies.

[www.ems.psu.edu/current\\_undergrad\\_students/academics/integrity\\_policy](http://www.ems.psu.edu/current_undergrad_students/academics/integrity_policy)

<http://tlt.psu.edu/plagiarism/student-tutorial>

Additionally, during the Maymester travels, all students are expected to maintain the highest levels of behavior. As representatives of Penn State, all participants are expected

to meet all expectations inherent in the Penn State Code of Conduct. Specific rules for the trip will be discussed during the pre-trip meetings.

*Preliminary Syllabus - Spring 2022*

*This is a preliminary schedule - normally there will be one meeting per week, approximately 1 - 1.5 hours in duration; scheduled at a time that all students can participate. Additionally the level of participation will increase in the latter parts of the semester (post-THON) as preparations for the trip increase.*

WEEK	TOPIC	ACTIVITY
1 - Jan 10 - 14	Course - Trip Introduction	<i>Get to know your colleagues</i>
2 - Jan 17 - 21	Logistics - Planning travel etc	<i>Help with travel plans as needed</i>
3 - Jan 24 - 28	Explore potential focus topics	<i>Finalize Trip details</i>
4 - Jan 31 - Feb 4	Thailand Today - overview of culture, economy, government, society	<i>Discussion of interface between hazards and society</i>
5 - Feb 7 - 11	The Natural Environment of Thailand - geology, land use, hazards, resources	<i>Discussion of interface between hazards and society</i>
6 - Feb 14 - 18	Focus Topics	<i>Plan specific focus topics,</i>  <i>THON</i>
7 - Feb 21 - 25	Thailand in the 20th Century	<i>Railroad Man</i>
8 - Feb 28 - Mar 4	Hazard events in Thailand I	<i>Tsunami</i>
9 - Mar 7 - 11	SPRING BREAK	

10 - Mar 14 - 18	Hazard events in Thailand II	<i>Flooding</i>
11 - Mar 21 - 25	Hazard events in Thailand III	<i>Earthquakes</i>
12 - Mar 28- Apr 1	Climate Change as a Hazard for Thailand	<i>Climate, sea level, ground water,....</i>
13 - Apr 4 - 8	NO CLASS	KPF away
14 - Apr 11 - 15	Finalize focus topics and projects	<i>Presentations to class on 'projects'</i>
15 - Apr 18 - 22	Final Planning for Trip	<i>Sharing Contact info etc.</i>
16 - Apr 25 - 29	Final Planning for Trip	
17 - May 2 - 6	FINAL EXAMS - NO CLASS	
May 10 - 29	THAILAND!	<b><i>THAILAND!</i></b>

In general most class meetings during Spring 2019 will include both short lectures on the topic of the week, plus discussions and/or other activities linked to that topic. To

help prepare for the discussions, materials will be provided via Canvas during the week prior, to allow students to develop background in the various topics.

The semester is divided into 4 basic sections:

Weeks 1-3: Course/Trip Background and Logistics

Weeks 4-7: Thailand Overview and Topical Background

Weeks 8-13: Hazards confronting Thailand

Weeks 15-16: Final planning for Maymester trip

[Note: no classes on Week 9 - Spring Break, and Week 13 - KPF away]