

## **THAI GEOGRAPHY**

2021 International Programs

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### **Course description**

Geographical characteristics in each region of Thailand as well as the borders of neighboring countries; Regional resources; Geographic factors which cause local change, including careers, permanent settlements and important tourist destinations; Fieldwork is part of the course.

### **Course objectives**

Students are expected to understand and be able to express their own ideas in the following areas:

1. The location, size and borders of Thailand.
2. Physical and human resources of Thailand.
3. Characteristics of Thailand in a regional context.
4. Various map projections and thematic maps of Thailand.
5. Important domestic and international tourist attractions in Thailand.
6. Geographic terms and concepts in the Thai context, including location, space, and area.
7. Geographical factors causing local change, including occupations, settlements, and migration.

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	Content	Activity
1	Introduction to the course: The fundamentals of geography; Overview of Thai geography	Lecture & PowerPoint; Group discussion; Activities
2	Introduction to the language of physical geography: Root words and their origins and meanings	Lecture & PowerPoint; Group discussion; Worksheet (concepts & meanings)
3	Map interpretation: Properties of maps; map types and projections; scale; latitude; longitude; contour lines; digital mapping; GPS and GIS	Lecture & PowerPoint; Group discussion; Project (PSU campus mapping exercise)
4	Introduction to concepts of physical geography (with emphasis on Thailand): Earth and Solar System; Climatology and Meteorology (+ SW and NE Monsoons); The Earth's Atmosphere; Weathering and Mass Wasting (+ Karst topography); River systems and landforms	Lecture & PowerPoint; Group discussion; Activities
5	Physical geography of Thailand I (+ National parks and resource management) - The Northern Region - The North-eastern Region	Activities: Student Presentations; Lecture & PowerPoint; Group discussion
6	Physical geography of Thailand II (+ National parks and resource management) - The Central Region - The Eastern Region	Activities: Student Presentations; Lecture & PowerPoint; Group discussion
7	Physical geography of Thailand III (+ National parks and resource management) - The Western Region - The Southern Region	Activities: Student Presentations; Lecture & PowerPoint; Group discussion
8	Coastal resource management and conservation in Thailand - Coral reefs; coastal processes; erosion; fisheries; pollution; marine debris; anthropogenic factors - Natural disasters in Thailand (cyclones; flooding; 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami)	Lecture & PowerPoint; Group discussion; Activities
9	Midterm Break	Take-home midterm project
10	Fieldtrip to Nai Yang Beach - Exploring coastal change through on-site experience: coral reefs; coastal erosion; fisheries; anthropogenic factors; marine debris	Coastal survey Beach combing Beach cleanup Lunch
11	Introduction to the language of human geography - Root words, origins & meanings	Lecture; Group discussion; Worksheet (concepts & meanings)
12	Human geography - Demographics of Bangkok as a primate city - Current and historic Thai border issues	Lecture & PowerPoint; Group discussion; Activities

	- Geographic factors which cause change at the local level, such as permanent settlements, migration and career	
13	Cultural and tourism geography of Thailand I - Important regional destinations of Thailand - The Northern Region - The North-eastern Region	Activities: Student Presentations; Lecture & PowerPoint; Group discussion
14	Cultural and tourism geography of Thailand II - Important regional destinations of Thailand - The Central Region - The Eastern Region	Activities: Student Presentations; Lecture & PowerPoint; Group discussion
15	Cultural and tourism geography of Thailand III - Important regional destinations of Thailand - The Western Region - The Southern Region	Activities: Student Presentations; Lecture & PowerPoint; Group discussion
16	- Course review and concluding remarks	Group discussion
17	- Final Exam	

### Selected Articles by Course Lecturer

- Martin, S. A., & Ritchie, R. J. (2020). Sourcing Thai geography literature for ASEAN and international education. [Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography 41\(1\) 61–85](#).
- Martin, S. A., & Ritchie, R. (2018). Towards an ASEAN community: A scoping study and case for teaching the geography of Thailand in the English language. Proceedings of the PSU Phuket International Conference 50th Anniversary Celebration: Creativity and Innovations for Global Development (p. 54). Prince of Songkla University, Phuket, Thailand, March 11–12.

### Other

- Martin, S. A. (2010). Coastal currents in Phuket. Thailand Surfrider. (4) 44-46. Thalang, Phuket: Purple Diamond Ltd.
- Martin, S. A. (2010). Exploratory research on the Gulf of Thailand. Thailand Surfrider. (4) 20-27. Thalang, Phuket: Purple Diamond Ltd.
- Martin, S. A. (2010). The conservation of coastal surfing resources in Thailand: The Andaman Sea. Proceedings of the *International Conference on the Environment and Natural Resources (ICENR) 2010: The Changing Environment: Challenges for Society*, Nov. 10-12. Bangkok, Thailand.
- Martin, S. A. (2011). Climate change and the environment in Thailand: What's going on with the weather? Thailand Surfrider. (5) 28-30. Thalang, Phuket: Purple Diamond Ltd.
- Martin, S. A. (2011). Surf science of the Andaman Sea, part I: A surfer's guide to wind, water & waves. *Thailand Surfrider*, (7) 42-45. Thalang, Phuket: Purple Diamond Ltd.
- Martin, S. A. (2011). Trash talking: Exploring marine debris on the Andaman Coast, Thailand. Thailand Surfrider. (6) 48-50. Thalang, Phuket: Purple Diamond Ltd.

- Martin, S. A., & Assenov, I. (2011). Beach and coastal survey of Thailand: What future for surf tourism. *Journal of Tourism, Hospitality & Culinary Arts*, 3(1), 77–87. Retrieved from <http://www.jthca.org/Download/pdf/V3%20IS1/chap%205.pdf> (accessed November 1, 2013).
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- Martin, S. A., & Assenov, I. (2013). Investigating the importance of surf resource sustainability indicators: Stakeholder perspectives for surf tourism planning and development. *Tourism Planning and Development*. doi: 10.1080/21568316.2013.864990
- Martin, S. A., & Assenov, I. (2013). Measuring the conservation aptitude of surf beaches in Phuket, Thailand: An application of the surf resource sustainability index. *International Journal of Tourism Research*. doi: 10.1002/jtr.1961

## Suggested readings

### Books

- Arthur, S. (1984). *Introduction to Physical Geography*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.
- Barrow, C. J. (2005). *Environmental management and development*. Oxon, United Kingdom: Routledge.
- Broadhurst, R. (2001). *Managing environments for leisure and recreation*. New York: Routledge.
- Garrison, T. (2009). *The essentials of oceanography*. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole, Cengage Learning
- Kermel-Torres, D. (2004). *Atlas of Thailand: Spatial structures and development*. Paris: IRD Editions.
- Lloyd, H. (1990). *Geography of Travel and Tourism*. Albany, New York: Delmar Publishing.
- Miller, G. T. (2006). *Environmental science: Working with the earth*. Belmont, California: Thompson Learning, Inc.
- Nebel, B. J., & Wright, R. T. (2000). *Environmental science: The way the world works*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc.
- Vincent, B. (1994). *World Geography: Case Studies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### Thailand Research Articles

- Changsan, H. (1988). Coastal tin mining and marine pollution in Thailand. *Ambio*. (17) 3, East Asian Seas, 223-228. Published by Allen Press on behalf of Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
- Department of Marine and Coastal Resources. (2005). *Rapid assessment of the tsunami impact on marine resources in the Andaman Sea, Thailand*. Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University Printing House.
- Forestry Department. (1997). FAO Corporate Document repository. Natural conservation and ecotourism. Retrieved from: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/x2649e/X2649E07.htm#TopOfPage>
- Greenpeace. (2003). Crisis and opportunity: Climate change in Thailand. Bangkok: Greenpeace.

- Griensven, F., Chakkraband, S., Thienkrua, W., Pengjuntr, W., Cardozo, B. L., Tantipiwatanaskul, P., Mock, P. A., Ekassawin, S., Varangrat, A., Gotway, C., Sabin, M., & Tappero, J. W. (2006). Mental health problems among adults in tsunami-affected areas in southern Thailand. *JAMA*, 296, 537-548.
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- National Park Office. (2004). *The best of national parks in Thailand*. Bangkok: National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department.
- National Park Office. (2006). *National parks in Thailand*. Bangkok: National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department.
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- Singh, O. P., Ali Khan, T. M., & Rahman, S. (2001). Has the frequency of intense tropical cyclones increased in the north Indian Ocean? *Current Science* 80(4).
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- Wipatayotin, A. (2010). Sea of sewage strips Thai beaches of five-star rating. *Bangkok Post*. Retrieved from: <http://bangkokpost.com/news/local/188989/sea-of-sewage-strips-thai-beaches-of-five-star-rating>
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