

Itinerary in Thailand and Laos

Locales visited by previous groups include:

- Bangkok, capital city of Thailand;
- Chiang Mai, Thailand's second largest city;
- Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai;
- Ethnic villages, as well as historical and cultural centers, in Thailand;
- Vientiane, capital city of Laos;
- The National University of Laos, Vientiane;
- Luang Prabang and the UNESCO World Heritage Sites;
- Plain of Jars in Phonsavan, Xieng Khuang Province; and,
- Ethnic villages, as well as historical and cultural centers, in Laos.



For more information about the Study Abroad Program to Southeast Asia, please contact:

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Study Abroad Program to Southeast Asia



<http://www.stcloudstate.edu>

Saint Cloud State University (SCSU)

St. Cloud State University is located at about 70 miles northwest of the Twin Cities, Minnesota, USA. The university offers students more than 175 majors, minors and pre-professional programs in Business, Education, Fine Arts & Humanities, Science & Engineering, and Social Sciences. SCSU is Minnesota's second largest university and has more than 16,000 students from Minneapolis, Minnesota to Malaysia. Located on the scenic banks of the Mississippi River in the state's fastest-growing metropolitan area, St. Cloud State University has a 135-year heritage of offering academic excellence and educational opportunity. Its nationally accredited programs and friendly environment have attracted over 900 international students from 84 countries who study and learn alongside National Merit Scholars from several states and the sons and daughters of Minnesota teachers, executives, farmers, doctors, and trades people.

Study Abroad Program to Southeast Asia

Since December of 2003, the Department of Ethnic Studies in collaboration with the Office of Multicultural Student Services at St. Cloud State University have developed a foreign study/travel program to Southeast Asia and have taken students to one of the most colorful and intellectually stimulating regions of the world. Every winter break, faculty and staff escort a group of students to Thailand and Laos to interact with area colleagues, as well as with other people of the region ranging in occupation from village farmers to erudite scholars. Over a hundred SCSU students, faculty, and staff have participated in this

program since its inception in 2003. Over ninety percent of the participants are students of color and a large number of them are Hmong American students.

Objectives

The Study Abroad Program to Southeast Asia seeks to provide an opportunity for students to:

- Acquire knowledge of international affairs and expand appreciation for alternative worldviews.
- Evaluate race, ethnicity, class, and gender from a transnational perspective.
- Examine Asian ethnicity in Asian homelands, most especially with respect to the Asian American communities of the United States.
- Analyze the historical, economic, sociocultural, and political impacts of colonialism and Westernization in Asia.
- Asian American participants may acquire enhanced knowledge of personal heritage through visits to ancestral homelands.



Courses

Participation in this program requires, as a prerequisite, that students complete the following two courses:

1. ETHS/ANTH 315: Asian Ethnicity in Southeast Asian and the United States (3 credits); and,
2. ETHS/ANTH 472/572: Fieldwork in Southeast Asia (3 credits).

ETHS/ANTH 315: Asian Ethnicity in Southeast Asia and the United States introduces students to the historical, economic, sociocultural, and political impacts of globalization and transnational movements on the Southeast Asian nations and their peoples. Background information so provided prepares students to evaluate, understand, and appreciate the rich cultural heritage of the region, and countries, in which they will be traveling. This course is offered every fall semester.

ETHS/ANTH 472/572: Fieldwork in Southeast Asia is the study tour component of the program, and provides students the opportunity to travel for three weeks during the winter holiday to Thailand and Laos to conduct brief fieldwork projects, and to meet and interact with local students, scholars, and non-academics of every calling, and, in so doing, to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the peoples and cultures of Southeast Asia, as well as the cultural roots of Southeast Asian Americans in the United States. This course is offered during every winter break.