

SIMPSON COLLEGE
2010 MAY TERM OFF-CAMPUS TRAVEL COURSE PROPOSAL
PROPOSAL REVISED and RESUBMITTED on 28 January 2009

Date: 28 January 2009

Completed forms should be submitted to the Office of International Education no later than Jan. 15, 2009 for international travel courses and no later February 17, 2009 for domestic travel courses.

Name of proposer(s): Lora Friedrich; Nicolas Proctor
Department(s): Sociology

Please check one of the following:

INTERNATIONAL Off-Campus Travel Course

DOMESTIC Off-Campus Travel Course

I. Course Information

- A. Course number, if course has been offered previously: **SOC 190**
- B. Course title: **Culture, Environment and Globalization in Thailand**
- C. Transcript Course Title (max. 21 characters): **Thailand Globalization**
- D. Course level (100/200/300): What is the rationale for offering the course at this level?
It is an introductory level course
- E. Minimum enrollment: **20**
- F. Maximum enrollment: **30**

II. Course Description

- A. Course goals and objectives: Given that Simpson May Term Off-Campus Travel Courses aim to provide students with an active learning curriculum that integrates a rigorous academic program with experiential immersion activities, please outline the learning objectives for your course.

This trip will introduce students to the broad spectrum of Thai culture through a variety of activities, which will begin with a series of readings and presentations during the spring semester. These readings will include some or all of the following books: Campbell & O'Neill, ed., *Sex Work Now*, Moran, *Tropical Deforestation*, and Sachs, *The End of Poverty*.

Once in country, the class will work at an elephant conservation center in the hillcountry of northern Thailand. We will explore issues of deforestation and eco-tourism as well as getting some experience in the care and handling of elephants. This portion of the course is tied to the Moran book.

Then, the class will examine issues surrounding human trafficking and sex work. If possible, students will complete a service project in either an orphanage for HIV+ children or an

institution devoted to teaching sex workers who want to leave the business. This portion of the course is tied to the Campbell & O'Neill book.

There will also be a service project in the extremely economically distressed Klong Thuy neighborhood of Bangkok. This portion of the course is tied to the Sachs book.

In the midst of these experiences, the class will step back every few days for a broader, more general exploration of issues of poverty and cultural change in a global context. These reflections will culminate in a full-day debriefing at the end of the course.

B. Rationale for the course: Please explain how the course fits in with your department and/or the college's curriculum.

- It dovetails nicely with the Thailand semester program.
- It builds upon the legacy of previous Thailand May Term courses.
- It is a global awareness course that deals with issues of globalization, personal awareness, and personal responsibility.
- It includes service learning.

C. In-country activities: Describe how the planned immersion activities (these could include home stays, service learning opportunities, interviews with locals, Q & A sessions with local guest lecturers/speakers, etc.) will be integrated into educational goals of the course.

See A, above.

In addition, the course will build from existing relationships developed as part of the on-going semester program.

D. Required course assignments and evaluation

1. Explain specific course requirements and indicate when they would occur

a. Participation

P = O = D

Frequent structured and unstructured discussions (see A, above)

b. Readings (please specify what these will be)

P = O

Elements of three books (see A, above)

c. Journal reflections

O = D

Students will complete an extensive, directed **journal exercise** over the course of the journey. There will be a number of mandated topics, and the instructors will periodically review the entries over the course of the trip.

d. Exams

Nix

e. Papers/Presentations/Field reports, etc.

P and perhaps O and D

Students will be required to **research and present** their findings about an element of Thai culture to the rest of the class during the preceding spring semester.

f. Other assignments

During the spring we will also screen a **variety of films** about the region.

Students will need to attend these screenings and participate in a discussion about each of them.

2. Approximately what percentage will each of the above course requirements contribute toward the final course grade?

Students will be assessed on five factors:

1. Class presentation during Spring Term
2. Active participation in meetings during Spring Term
3. Completing the assigned readings
4. Trip journal
5. Engagement in course activities during the trip

E. Catalog course description of about 100 words which includes a statement of expected course work (papers, exams, journal writing, presentations, etc.)

This trip will introduce students to the broad spectrum of Thai culture through a variety of activities, which will begin with a series of readings and presentations during the spring semester. These readings will include some or all of the following books: Campbell & O'Neill, ed., *Sex Work Now*, Moran, *Tropical Deforestation*, and Sachs, *The End of Poverty*.

Once in country, the class will explore several different facets of globalization in Thailand. These will include exploring issues of deforestation and eco-tourism as well as getting some experience in the care and handling of elephants. Examining issues surrounding human trafficking and sex work by completing a service project in either an orphanage for HIV+ children or an institution devoted to teaching sex workers who want to leave the business. Finally, there will be a service project in the extremely economically distressed Klong Thuy neighborhood of Bangkok.

In the midst of these experiences, the class will step back every few days for a broader, more general exploration of issues of poverty and cultural change in a global context. These reflections will culminate in a full-day debriefing at the end of the course.

F. Are there prerequisites for this course? **No.**

III. Other Information

A. Has this course been offered in a previous May Terms? Yes No **Sort of X**

If yes, please indicate *when* it was offered and the approximate enrollment.

Simpson has offered a Thailand May Term trip several times in the past. It usually has 30-35 students.

B. Department(s) in which credit is to be awarded: **Sociology**

C. If this course will meet requirements for a departmental major or minor, please explain briefly:
It will not.

D. Proposed dates of the travel course, including dates you anticipate being abroad:

First Monday of May Term/Last Thursday of May Term

E. Proposed location(s) and how the site location(s) relate to the core objectives of the course:

Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand:

Klong Thuy and the sex worker facility are in Bangkok. The elephant center and orphanage are in Chiang Mai.

F. Indicate your level of familiarity with the site(s) visited during the course.

Friedrich is VERY familiar with Thailand having lived and worked there in a number of capacities. Previous trips, sabbaticals, and semester programs have used these locations.

Proctor has taken two May Term trips to Thailand with Friedrich.

G. Will the off-campus component of this course require a significant amount of physical exertion on the part of the course participants? On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being little physical exertion and 5 being a tremendous amount of physical exertion, please rate the anticipated activities related to this course. Do you anticipate that the course activities would pose any significant challenges for someone with physical disabilities?

3.5

Wheelchair users or similarly mobility-impaired people may have issues. As a developing nation, Thailand is not very ADA compliant – particularly in the slums and hillcountry where much of this trip will take place.

V. Proposed Budget for the Course
(A more precise estimate is not due to the OIE until September 7, 2009)

First, estimate expenses for instructor(s) and course assistant(s), if any, (in total, not per student)

Air transportation	\$ 2400
In-country transportation	\$ 300
Lodging	\$ 1000
Meals	\$ 400
Events: tickets, admissions, excursions, etc.	\$ 200
Any necessary entry visas	\$
Misc.	\$ 200
Other (explain):	\$
Total instructors expenses	\$ 4500

Next, estimate the cost per student, based upon the minimum enrollment number (20) from page 1 of this document:

Air transportation	\$ 1200
In-country transportation	\$ 150
Lodging	\$ 500
Meals	\$ 200
Events: tickets, admissions, excursions, etc.	\$ 100
Honorariums	\$ 100
Tips	\$
Int'l Student I.D. card is now optional, \$25 each if desired	\$
SC Study Abroad Program Fee	\$ 100
Any necessary entry visas	\$
Contingency fund (\$100 recommended)	\$ 100
Other (explain):	\$
Subtotal per student expenses (based upon minimum enrolled #)	\$ 2450

Finally, divide the "Total instructors (2) expenses" by "the minimum enrollment number (20) from page 1 of this document" to get a "per student instructor cost." Then add

Subtotal per student expenses (based upon minimum enrolled #)	\$2450
+ per student instructor cost	\$ 225
= Total per student cost	\$2675

Additional expenses not covered by the program for which students need to budget:
For example, passport @ \$100, books, meals, immunizations, trip cancellation insurance, etc.

Total estimated additional expenses not covered by the course: souvenirs and one meal per day.

Instructor signature: _____ Date: _____

Instructor signature: _____ Date: _____

Dept Chair approval: _____ Date: _____
(department(s) in which credit is to be awarded)

Dept Chair approval: _____ Date: _____
(department(s) in which credit is to be awarded)

Div. Head approval: _____ Date: _____
(division of the instructor)

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