



**Master of Arts in Social Science (International Program)**  
**Faculty of Social Sciences, Chiang Mai University**

**Course Descriptions**

**Core Courses**

**SS 169701 Social Sciences Theories**

This course studies how various schools of social sciences construct their theories. Emphasis is on the process of conceptualization at various levels of abstraction as well as the philosophical foundation and inner logic of each school. Included are debates on the similarities and differences between different theories in the social sciences and between social sciences and natural sciences.

**SS 169702 Conceptualization in Social Research**

The course examines the existing philosophical and theoretical foundations and methodological issues that are relevant to social research, including the strengths and weaknesses of various theoretical and methodological perspectives. Emphases will be placed on formulation of research by linking theories and phenomena, conceptualizing research questions, operationalizing the conceptual framework, and selection of relevant designs, methods, and tools. Field exposure and the experience of students are used as realistic exercises in conceptualization and research design.

**SDS 166701 Development Theories**

This course will study and compare the development of, and debates on, the theories and concepts relating to development studies. The focus will be on the fundamental premises and approaches for the analysis of the ecological and social systems with an attempt to integrate both natural science and social science dimensions. The discussion will be made through concrete action programs on development studies with both state and local participation, such as community forestry, watershed management, agro-ecosystem, agroforestry, and indigenous health systems. In addition, students will learn how development studies deal with both the interconnectedness of societies and regional and local specificities in a globalizing world.

**SDS 166791 Seminar: Special Issues on Development Studies**

Seminar on local and regional issues related to sustainable development. Particularly, the issues of resource management, health related problems, trans-border trade and migration, and problems related to ethnic and gender relations.

**SDS 169799 MA Thesis**

The final objective and examination before the award of the M.A in Sustainable Development. A research thesis based on case studies carried out by the student in the Southeast Asia region and involving a synthesis and application of all the courses

**Elective Courses**

**I. Courses in field of concentration**

**A. Development Studies**

**SDS 166711 Regionalization in Development Process**

Regionalization in Development Process in the Mekong Sub-region. An analysis of the history of notions relating to the Mekong as a region, changes resulted from development processes, market intervention, globalization, and the change of states from post-colonial to post-socialist eras. A study of the emerging notions

of economic regionalism and the Mekong Sub-region and the impacts on agrarian transformation, social differentiation, conflict in resource management, environmental politics, change in gender roles, and the development of social movement in the region.

#### **SDS 166721 Local Rights and Knowledge in Development**

To examine the crucial concepts of local rights and knowledge from diverse and contradicting perspectives such as property rights and regimes, customary rights and national laws, local knowledge and intellectual property, and ethnic domains and other related concepts. The course will place a special emphasis on the current debates on natural resource management and practices, and various forms of resource competition, conflicts, and social movement.

#### **SDS 166751 Transborder Studies**

Border and transborder studies through inter-disciplinary approach including history, geo-politics, political sciences, anthropology, feminism, and development studies. An analysis of historical changes of notions relating to borders in Southeast Asian countries from pre-modern to colonial, post-cold war and contemporary periods. Ramification of such changes in relation to flows of people, capital, goods, information, and culture. Changing development forces and cultural, ethnic, and gender identities within the context of globalization and transnationalism.

#### **SDS 166762 Operationalization in Development Research**

Learning and exchange from experience in actual research operation of different research approaches and methods. Case studies using a number of selected thesis and research monograph. Emphases on the operationalization of field research, research proposal writing, field data collecting, data processing and analysis. Presentation of research findings including thesis writing, research synopsis, and bibliographical format in academic writing.

#### **SDS 166789 Selected Topics on Development Studies**

Directed study of a selected topic on sustainable development. Theoretical and concept formulation for research and problem identification relating to thesis.

### **B. Ethnicity and Development**

#### **ETHD 156701 Multi-culturalism in Modern Societies**

Study of the co-existence of different cultures in modern society as a result of globalization and transnationalism and the subsequent ethnic tension and conflicts; theories of multi-culturalism and their critiques; various forms of nationalism, religion and nationalism, the problems of national identity, citizenship and political participation; hybridity and cultural movement.

#### **ETHD 156702 Concepts and Theories of Ethnicity and Development**

Study of foundation and development of concepts and theories of ethnicity, ethnic classification, ethnic identity, relationships between nation-state, nationalism, globalization, ethnicity and multiculturalism; including the use of various social science theories and concepts to explain changes occurred within ethnic communities.

#### **ETHD 156704 Ethnic Studies in Southeast Asia**

Study ethnographic works about various ethnic groups in Southeast Asia spanning from the periods of pre-modern nation-state to present; explore a wide range of historical records including legends, inscriptions, journals, missionary and/or government official reports as well as ethnographic and anthropological writings from colonial times to the present.

#### **ETHD 156713 Visual Ethnography**

Study of arts, music, local performances and other types of cultural media as a form of self-representation of ethnic groups within the context of national integration, whereby nation-state attempts to unify diverse cultures; efforts of ethnic groups in revitalizing, maintaining, and re-inventing their ethnic identities through the use of ethnic art and media in public space.

#### **ETHD 156714 Ethnic Health, Development and Ecology**

Study of concepts in medical sociological/anthropological perspectives, culture and health, rituals and belief system, ecological change, and analysis of development policy and impacts of development projects on health among various ethnic groups, migrant workers, displaced persons, etc., including the way these ethnic people

deal with problems related to health; international conventions and environment laws related to health and illness.

**ETHD 156716 Local Wisdom of Ethnic Groups and Development**

Study of local knowledge of ethnic groups as cultural system and every day practices; relationships between local knowledge, ecological systems and development; concepts in political ecology; revival of local knowledge under state policy and development models by ethnic and local leaders as well as experiences from different countries.

**ETHD 156718 Indigenous People Rights, Mechanisms and Processes for Human Rights, Protection**

Study of principles and concepts of indigenous people rights, impact of development and state policy on indigenous people rights, a variety of indigenous people rights, citizenship law and civil rights in Thailand, including claiming for rights of indigenous people; understanding international conventions and agreements on indigenous people and mechanisms of international organizations in protecting indigenous people rights.

**ETHD 156719 Ethnic Economy, Tourism and Consumer Culture**

Study of the development of economic systems among ethnic groups spanning from self-sufficient economy to market-oriented economy in the present, including the development and impacts of tourism and consumerism in ethnic communities.

**ETHD 156789 Selected Topics in Ethnicity and Development**

Study of a selected topic which is not listed in the regular courses, aiming at helping students to integrate knowledge and attain deeper theoretical understanding which will enable them in conceptualizing a research problem with supervision of an instructor specializing in that selected topic.

**ETHD 156791 Seminar**

Presentation and discussion of phenomena and research issues in ethnicity and development including emerging problems and current research findings related to ethnic groups as well as reviewing of related literature in detail.

**C. Women's Studies**

**SWS 168700 Critical Interdisciplinary Women's Studies**

Introduction to critical interdisciplinary women's studies with an emphasis on feminist intersectionality theory – which uses gender, class, ethnicity, and other relevant factors as units of analysis and the bases for research design.

**SWS 168710 Human Rights and Women's Rights**

Relationship between human rights and women's rights at the conceptual and practical levels; case studies of feminists' integration of human rights at the international level; the Universal Declaration on Human Rights Convention on the Elimination of All Discrimination against Women and other relevant international conventions and declarations.

**SWS 168712 Feminist Legal Studies**

Feminist approaches to the study of laws, judicial processes, and state political ideologies which create the public and private domains in the exercise of state legal power. Emphasis is given to the way in which women as marginalized citizens, by state laws, have fought to become users of laws to elevate their status and quality of life.

**SWS 168713 Women and Politics**

Women's struggles against and use of state power under various regimes; and feminist approaches to enhance women's participation in formal politics such as the Quota System, Affirmative Action, and grassroots political empowerment.

**SWS 168720 Women in Socio-cultural Perspectives**

Feminist and anthropological approaches to the dynamics of women's roles and status in their performances as the social and cultural actors and creators.

**SWS 168722 Women and Economy**

Feminist economics and feminist analysis of women's roles, status, and well-being in patriarchal societies under feudal, socialist, capitalist, and transnational capitalist economies.

#### **SWS 168730 Women and Literature**

Basic literary studies and semiotic approaches to analyze literature as a politico-cultural institution which can be used to either enhance or challenge patriarchal ideologies. Case studies drawn from classical and contemporary Thai literature.

#### **SWS 168735 Women and Religion**

An examination of the relationships between religions and gender, religious teaching and gender inequality, feminist reinterpretation of religious teachings and values in different countries.

#### **SWS 168741 Sex Crimes and Violence against Women**

A study of feminist approaches to sex crimes and violence against women; and feminist analysis of these issues within Thailand's cultural, political, and economic contexts.

#### **SWS 168743 Women and Health**

Gender-related health issues within the contexts of Thailand's culture, politics, and economy and their implications for Thai women's roles and status in the family and society at large.

#### **SWS 168791 Seminar: Special Issues on Women**

Seminar on special problems of women issues at international, regional and local levels, both policy and practical levels, particularly an analysis related to problems of family unit, culture, politics, economy and resource management as well as problems caused by dimensions of power relations, class, ethnicity and gender relations.

### **D. Health Social Sciences**

#### **HSS 173701 Health Illness and Society**

Social dimensions and social production of health and illness, social concept of health and illness, social organization and health, health inequity and social pattern of health and illness, health and illness as social construction, social network, social capital and health, globalization and health.

#### **HSS 173702 Cultural and Health**

Development and domains of medical anthropology studies, health, illness, disease, medical system and pluralistic medicine, health and cultural, ritual and health belief, interaction between doctor and patient, stigma, medical bias and medicalization, social suffering and illness experiences, health and adaptation, health and illness analysis with postmodern concept.

#### **HSS 173703 Population Change and Health**

The relationship between population and health, population key components, population composition; child, adult and the elderly, urban and rural population changing process and health, population policy and health.

#### **HSS 173721 Ageing Medicine and Society**

Social and demographical phenomena of ageing, definition of ageing and ageing as social concept and social process, perspectives on ageing, social theories on ageing, medicine and health issues of ageing, health and social policy towards ageing and ageing in the global context.

#### **HSS 173723 Socio-cultural Perspectives of Food and Health**

Food and health in global and local contexts situation and trend, food as socio-cultural construction, modern food system, the politics of food and health, food, gender and family, food and identity, current food issue and social movement.

#### **HSS 173727 Health Ecology**

Health Ecology approach, development and ecological change, global warming and health problems, food resources and herbal plants, Industry and environmental and health crises, civil movement and health rights in ecological crisis: case studies in Thailand and other countries, global civic movement towards ecological harmony.

**HSS 173728 Health and Medicine in Changing Society**

Changing society and changing health concept, lifestyles and health, risk and health consumption, Health service utilization and access, chronic diseases and disability, chronic diseases and disability, ageing and the life course and changing society and challenge to medicine.

**HSS 173730 Health Business and Tourism**

Globalization, capitalism and health care, health care and medicine as commoditization, inequity in health care, health security and health commodity, health goods and constructing discourse through health professionals, advertisement and bio-medical language, bio-medical ethics and commodification the process of health care and medicine commodification, health, medicine and free trade regime, health, medicine and tourism, case study; genomic medicine, organ transplantation, cosmetic medicine, aging and health tour, health spa, alternative medicine.

**HSS 173789 Selected Topic in Health Social Sciences**

Selected topic on health in social science perspectives relevant to academic and contemporary social and health situation.

**HSS 173791 Selected Local Health Issue and Globalization**

Seminar Discussion and presentation on the applications of social science theories and concepts in order to understand and practically analyze globalization and local health problems and policy in various aspects.

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**II. Courses outside field of concentration****A. Social Sciences****SA 159701 Social and Cultural Theories I**

This course studies how classic and contemporary anthropologists and sociologists construct their theories. Emphasis is on the process of conceptualization at various levels of abstraction as well as the philosophical foundation and inner logic of each school. Included are debates on the similarities and differences between theories in the social sciences and in natural science and debates on core sociological concepts.

**SA 159723 Economic Sociology and Anthropology**

Diversity and complexity of changing economic processes in all levels of socio-cultural relations; local, regional and global, the debates on values and meaning of the gift exchange and the commodity, the problems of the transitional economy and the conflicts of access to resources under the capitalist market economy, multiplicity of the restructuring of rural economy under neo-liberalism, the discourses and politics of production, meanings of work and labor in agro-food industry, including the globalization of cultural economy, cultural industry and tourism.

**SA 159704 Social and Cultural Theories II**

The shifting of theoretical paradigms as seen in contemporary theoretical debates both on the theory of knowledge and social explanation as well as on Post-modern social and cultural theories with a focus on theories of meaning, practice, knowledge, and power. Theoretical debates on feminist social and cultural theories as well as on theories of history and social space, including the analysis of local and indigenous thought as theory and knowledge.

**SA 159712 Resource Governance and Civil Society**

Debates on concepts and theories of rights and power over access to resources, political and economic processes of control and management of resources, multiplicity of various levels of rights, dynamics of community-based resource management, globalization and commoditization of resources, politics of contestation for resources and the formation of civil society, discourses and practices of resource governance, including decentralization of resource management and civil society participation, as well as knowledge spaces of common property management under the regionalization of development.

## **B. Geography**

### **GEO 154711 Environmentalism and Environmental Policies**

Examination of different social definitions of the environment, and how environmental ideologies are constructed and employed in social activism to (re)formulate environmental policies towards ecological sustainability and social justice. Analysis of environmental ideologies and practices in different places at various scales ranging from local, national, regional and global based on relations between ideologies, power and institutional arrangements with an emphasis on case studies in Southeast Asia.

### **GEO 154713 Policy Analysis and Resources Management**

The general concepts of environment and environmental problems, with particular emphasis on Thailand. Analysis of environmental problems and their effects on man. Ways to apply environmental theories to reduce or to solve such problems mentioned.

### **GEO 154714 Political Ecology**

An analysis of the problems of natural resource and environmental degradation in the context of the political economic configuration. This study combines political economy with ecology, especially in terms of competing control over uses, conservation, and ownership of natural resources and the environment. Conflicting roles of the state, market economy, and civil institutions in natural resource management will be reexamined through current problems in developing countries. Property rights in natural resources in various levels of social setting are also the focal point of investigation. The contested point of view and discourse on society-environment interrelationships will be brought into discussion and for rebuttal.

### **GEO 154739 Geography of Health**

Spatial differences in health by focusing on the differences between developed and developing countries, analysis of health problems and illness in terms of space, geographical factors relating to health problems and the use of geographical concepts and techniques to analyze and explain health problems.

### **GEO 154777 Geo-informatics and Health**

Knowledge on geo-informatic technology, geo-informatic technology for studying the relationship between health and places, geo-informatic technology and spatial analysis, spatial techniques for health sciences, geo-informatic technology in the study of diseases, case studies in Thailand.