

Assumption University
Theodore Maria School of Arts
Department of General Education
Course Outline 1/2026

Course	:	GE 1101 Thai Civilization/ GE 1104 Thai Historical Perspectives
Credit	:	3
Status	:	General Education Elective (GE1104)/ Free Elective
Prerequisite	:	None
Lecturer	:	Dr. Uma Thavilabh, umathv@au.edu, SR339

Course Description: Foundation and evolution of the Thai race from prehistoric, and historical periods in the Sukhothai, Ayudhaya, Thonburi, and Rattanakosin periods. Thai culture and society during the present period under King Rama IX and King Rama X. The implementation of the Self-sufficiency Economy and other royal projects.

Course Objectives: The course aims to enable students to

1. understand the history, society, and culture of Thailand.
2. analyze the relationship between past and contemporary societies and events in Thailand.
3. appreciate and value Thai culture and heritage.

Teaching - Learning Activities:

1. Lectures
2. Class discussions
3. Class work and assignments
4. Presentations
5. Reading assignments
6. Film showing
7. Problem-Based Learning

Course Components and Mark Allocation:

* Attendance	10%
* Individual Assignments (In-class Assignments)	20%
* Group presentation(s)	15%
* In-Class Exhibition	20%
* Term project	15%
* Final Exam	<u>20%</u>
Total	<u>100%</u>

Attendance Requirement:

At least **80%** of class attendance is required. Students with more than 6 absences will **not** be allowed to take the final exam. Students are required to answer the attendance checking every class. Students who are 15 minutes late will have their names recorded as late for that class. Being late 3 times will be recorded as 1 absence.

1. All assignments and class activities are submitted via aulms website only.
2. Accepted file format must be carefully observed for all class assignments, presentations, and projects.
3. The instructor can also be reached at SR339 or via **email**. Please always address yourself formally by typing your name along with the course and section number that you belong to for a prompt and correct response regarding your inquiries.
4. The instructor **does not** use Microsoft Teams.
5. If students have questions, please do not hesitate to ask them right away.
6. Attendance will be checked randomly approximately. In case any person shows up at the beginning but disappears at the end, his or her attendance will not be checked for that day.

Evaluation	:	80% - 100%	=	A
		78% - 79%	=	A –
		73% - 77%	=	B +
		70% - 72%	=	B
		68% - 69%	=	B –
		63% - 67%	=	C +
		60% - 62%	=	C
		58% - 59%	=	C –
		50% - 57%	=	D
		below 50%	=	W

Textbook:

Syamananda, R. (1995). *A history of Thailand* (8th ed.). Thai Watana Panich.

Reference:

Office of the Prime Minister, Royal Thai Government. (2000). *Thailand into the 2000's*. The National Identity, Office of the Prime Minister, Thailand.

Study Plan and Schedule:

- Week 1 **Class 1: General Introduction: Thailand**
- Geography
 - The people
 - Facts about Thailand
- Class 2: Prehistoric Thailand (Thai Race: Theory 1)**
- Old Stone Age
 - Middle Stone Age
 - New Stone Age
 - Metal Age
- Week 2 **Class 1: Pre-Thai Civilization (Thai Race: Theory 2)**
- Origin and migrations
 - Nanchao
 - Other possibilities
- Class 2: Next Migrations: Mainland Southeast Asia (Thai Race: Theory 3)**
- Davaravati Kingdom
 - Lannathai Kingdom
 - Khmer Kingdom
- Week 3 **Class 1: Sukhothai Period**
- The Founding of Sukhothai: Pra-Ruang Dynasty
 - Culture and traditions
 - King Ramkamhaeng the Great
 - Paternalism
 - Religious interests
 - Relationship with China: trade and diplomatic relation
 - Invention of Thai alphabet
- Class2: King Lithai and Latter Kings**
- Buddhism
 - Religious literature and Buddhist art
 - Decline of Sukhothai
- Week 4 **Class 1: Ayudhaya Period**
- The Founding of Ayudhaya
 - Adoption of Indian influences: Deva Raja perception, social structure, language, beliefs, etc.
 - Foreign relations: The first Europeans in Ayudhaya before the year 1569
 - Wars and War heroes
 - Fall of Suphannaphum Dynasty: 1569
 - Maha Thammaraja Dynasty
 - Declaration of independence: 1584

- Class 2: King Naresuan the Great**
- Trade and foreign relations
 - King Songtam and the system of royal monopoly
 - King Narai the Great

- Week 5
- Class 1: Decline of Ayudhaya and Post Ayudhaya Period**
- Ban Plu Luang Dynasty
 - The Sack of Ayudhaya
 - King Tak Sin the Great and Thonburi Period
 - Social interests

- Class 2: Rattanakosin Period**
- The Founding of Bangkok and Chakri Dynasty
 - Administration
 - Social conditions
 - Siam under King Rama I

- Week 6
- Class 1: Early Bangkok Period**
- King Rama II
 - Classical and popular literature
 - King Rama III
 - Foreign Trade
- Modernization and Westernization**
- From Prince Mongkut to King Mongkut (King Rama IV)
 - Treaties, extraterritorial privilege
 - King Chulalongkorn the Great (King Rama V)
 - King Rama V and foreign relations
 - Reforms

- Week 7
- Class 1: Changes and Social Development**
- King Rama VI
 - King Rama VI and educational reforms
 - WWI
- Class 2: Democracy in Thailand**
- Political Revolution
 - Role of King Rama VII
 - Adoption of constitutional monarchy with a democratic government

- Week 8
- Class 1: Group Presentation(s)**
Class 2: Group Presentation(s)

-----NO MIDTERM EXAMINATION-----

- Week 9
- Class 1: Kingship and Modern Monarchy**
- The role of Kings since the political change in 1932 till present
 - Constitutional Monarchy

- Week 10
- Class 1: King Bhumibol Adulyadej (King Rama IX)**
- General Background
 - Royal Duties and Royal Development Projects
- Class 2: Self-Sufficiency Economy**
- Objectives
 - Applications

- Week 11
- Class 1: King Vajiralongkorn (King Rama X)**
- Thailand and ASEAN
- Class 2: Thai Culture and Society**
- Classical culture and characteristics
 - Popular culture and characteristics
 - Cultural diversity

- Week 12 Class 1: **Thai Art**
- Nature and characteristics
 - Themes, styles, and techniques
- Class 2: **Thai Art (contd.)**
- Painting
 - Sculpture
 - Architecture
- Week 13 Class 1: **Thai Art (contd.)**
- Literature
 - Drama
- Class 2: **Buddhism**
- The founding of Buddhism
 - Lord Buddha
 - Buddhist philosophy
 - Major practices
- Buddhism in Thailand**
- Arrival of Buddhism
 - Buddhist beliefs and practices
 - Buddhist Holy Days and Ceremonies
- Week 14 Class 1: **Role of Buddhism in Thai Society**
- Rural lifestyle
 - Traditions and beliefs
- Class 2: **Festivals**
- Urban lifestyle
 - Modern lifestyle
- Week 15 Class 1: **Revision**
Class 2: **Revision**
- Week 16 Class 1: **Term Project and In-Class Exhibition(s)**
Class 2: **Term Project and In-Class Exhibition(s)**

-----FINAL EXAMINATION-----
1 October 2026 13:00-16:00 hrs. (3 hours)

18 September 2026: Last day to withdraw with “W”

Group Presentation: Submit your **PowerPoint presentation file** before the presentation day on the aulms website. Do not plagiarize any source of information. Originality is needed in every piece of work. You must use at least 3 references of trustworthy sources. Wikipedia and personal blogs are not allowed to be used in this academic presentation.

Approximate length of project presentation: 20 minutes per group

Dates of presentation: Week 8 and Week 16

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and a serious breach of ethical conduct. It is unacceptable student behaviour. Students who plagiarise by copying words or ideas without acknowledging the original authors of the words or ideas will face disciplinary action. This will range from receiving an “F” in the subject to university suspension.

Dress code for attending class and obtaining class attendance.

To obtain permission to attend classes and be granted class attendances, undergraduate students are obligated to strictly comply with permissible classroom entry time stipulated in the provided course syllabus as well as the university dress codes. Ref: Assumption University of Thailand Regulations of Uniform and Dress Code for Day Program Students, issued on January 22, 2021 (<https://sa.au.edu/>).

LOCATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

GENERAL EDUCATION (GE) office hours: Monday to Friday, 8.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.

Office Location: CL10
 Phone: 02-7232485
 Email Address : general_education@au.edu

VISION

Assumption University of Thailand envisions itself as:

- an international community of scholars,
- enlivened by Christian inspiration,
- engaged in the pursuit of Truth and Knowledge,
- serving human society, especially through the creative use of interdisciplinary approaches and cyber-technology.

**VISION 2000 FOR
 ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY GRADUATES**

Assumption University of Thailand envisions its graduates as:

- healthy and open-minded persons, characterized by personal integrity, an independent mind, and positive thinking,
- professionally competent, willing to exercise responsible leadership for economic progress in a just society,
- able to communicate effectively with people from other nations and to participate in globalization.

Faculty of Arts Vision & Mission

Vision

Faculty of Arts, Assumption University of Thailand, envisions itself as:

A faculty of high academic standing known for its excellence in language education for business, culture and research with:

- qualified and dedicated lecturers
- capable and determined students
- state-of-the-art courses and technologies
- international teaching environment

which envisions its graduates to be:

- professionally competent, able to communicate effectively with people from other nations and to participate in globalization through their facility as bilinguals and their deep knowledge of other cultures,
- responsible leaders for economic progress in a just society, both in their exercise of citizenship and in their business activities,
- flexible and compassionate persons who clearly live by their personal values, dare to think for themselves, and respond to new situations innovatively.

Mission**Enabling students:**

1. To acquire language business skills, Thai and foreign, for reading, writing and communicating
2. To learn how to mutually appreciate and share cultural values with people of other nations
3. To be professionally competent business men and women capable of responsible business leadership for economic progress and prosperity of the country

**THEODORE MARIA SCHOOL OF ARTS
 Advising and Counseling 1/2026**

All Arts students (English for International Business, Business English, Business French, Business Chinese, and Business Japanese) must meet with their advisors before they pre-register for the 2/2026 semester. Students who fail to come for their advising and counseling session will not be allowed to register for 2/2026 during the pre-registration period.

Names of advisors for semester 1/2026 will be posted on the faculty website (www.arts.au.edu), at CL 11 and on the Department Boards at SM Bldg. Arts students are required to check their advisors' names every semester and meet with them before pre-registration.