

**2017**  
**January 2-26**  
**January Term Study**  
**Away**  
**UMAIE City as Text:**  
**Reading Vietnam**  
**and Thailand-**  
**Ho Chi Minh City,**  
**Bangkok, Chiang Mai**



**Learn about and experience the culture of Southeast Asia through structured explorations of three cities: Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, and Bangkok and Chiang Mai in Thailand. Also, view the magnificent temple of Angkor Wat at sunset!**

Students will learn about historical and contemporary culture in Southeast Asia by “reading” three cities (using the National Collegiate Honors Council trademarked “City as Text”\* method) in two SE Asian countries: the rapidly developing Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) in Vietnam; the modern city of Bangkok, and the more traditional and ecologically aware city of Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand. Students will be provided, by the instructors and local guides and lecturers, with foundational historical background on Vietnam and Thailand including the major periods in their development. Subsequently, students will have the chance to explore the cities in teams, reading the historical layers and interpreting their meaning. *Students will also visit Angkor Wat in Cambodia*, and engage in a cultural engagement project helping rural Thailand villagers with their English.

\*Note: City-as-Text methodology is based largely upon the work of cultural anthropologist, Clifford Geertz, and the work of learning theorist David A. Kolb, author of *Experiential Learning: Experience as a Source of Learning and Development*, who was informed by Dewey and Piaget. Kolb posits a model of learning as a circular process moving from “concrete experience” to “observation and reflection” to “formation of abstract concepts and generalizations” to “testing implications of concepts in new situations” and then repeating the cycle. The City-as-Text methodology insists upon the value of physical exploration in specific places – inviting students to read “place as text” in compliance with a postmodern expanded definition of “text.”

**Meets ECIC Global tag for EC students!**

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## Tentative Agenda and Estimated Costs

UMAIE City as Text: Reading Vietnam and Thailand — January 2 - 26, 2017

Date	Location/Activities	Housing
1/2 Mon	Leave O'Hare/Mpls.-St. Paul Airports	
1/3 – 1/6 Tues- Fri	Ho Chi Minh City: Reunification Palace, Museums, Ben Thanh Market; Cu Chi Tunnels, Cao Dai Temple. Site research. 2 group lunches; 1 group dinner	Nhat Ha 3 Hotel ( <i>or comparable hotel</i> )
1/7-1/8 Sat - Sun	Mekong Delta: Cai Be floating market, rice paper factory, brickworks, Vinh Long market. 2 group lunches; 1 group dinner.	Home stay with local family
1/10-1/11 Tues- Wed	Siem Reap/Cambodia: view Angkor Wat at sunset; Angkor Thom, south gate; world heritage temples. 2 group dinners	Treasure Oasis Hotel
1/11-1/14 Wed-Sat	Bangkok: Old City (Grand Palace, Wat Pho, Emerald Buddha), Chao Phraya River tour, Erawan Shrine; silk trade. Site research. 1 group lunch; 1 group dinner	Grand Sathorn Hotel
1/15-1/18 Sun-Wed	Chiang Mai: Lang. Institute of Chiang Mai University (LICMU) hosts; meet CMU students, campus tour, Thai culture program, Chedi Luang, local temples, Lanna Culture Museum. Daily boxed lunch, 1 group dinner.	LICMU housing
1/19-1/20 Thur-Fri	Chiang Mai: Doi Suthep Temple, Phuping Palace; Thai family culture, meet homestay families (2 students/family). 2 lunches, 2 dinners.	Home stay
1/21-1/24 Sat-Tues	Return to CMU housing: Elephant park, Thai Lanna Dancing, site research, free time. 3 lunches, farewell dinner with hosts	LICMU housing
1/25 Wed	Depart Chiang Mai airport for Chicago, Mpls-St. Paul (via Bangkok Suvarnabhumi airport)	
1/28 Sat	Final paper due, email to both professors	
<b>TOTAL</b>	Rough estimate. <b>\$ 5970-6270 /per student**</b> (assuming 15 participants)	

### \*\*Costs included:

- Roundtrip Airfare – Chicago O'Hare/Mpls.-St. Paul Airport to Ho Chi Minh City
- Transportation to and from the airport in HCMC to hotel and to all destinations in SE Asia
- Airfare to Siem Reap, Bangkok, Chiang Mai
- 10 night accommodations in hotel; 8 nights LICMU housing; 3 nights homestays.
- Course content led by two Elmhurst College professors and 1.0 credit; meets G tag (**no additional tuition for full-time EC students**). Students from other institutions are encouraged to check with their international office for credits, tuition and any additional fees.
- Space for classrooms sessions, EC and CMU faculty lectures and student presentations
- Specially-guided tours in all major cities: Temples, palaces, museums; Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom; Thai culture program at Language Institute of Chiang Mai University
- Daily breakfast; 14 lunches; nine group dinners

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