COURSE DETAIL

SELECTED TOPICS IN THAI STUDIES THE PRESIDING GAZE: BUDDHA IMAGES OF THAILAND

Country
Thailand

Host Institution
Thammasat University

Program(s)
Thammasat University

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Asian Studies

UCEAP Course Number
156

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
SELECTED TOPICS IN THAI STUDIES THE PRESIDING GAZE: BUDDHA IMAGES OF THAILAND

UCEAP Transcript Title
TPCS: PRESIDING GZE

UCEAP Quarter Units
5.00

UCEAP Semester Units
3.30

Course Description

This course examines an aspect of Thai social life often overlooked although central to the everyday practical lives and visual experiences of Thais. The Buddha image presiding over the Vihara, or Ubosot of a temple, almost always has a name and a story connected to it. The belief and ritual practices surrounding the image make it a practically central component of the life of a Buddhist community.

And yet such images have scarcely excited much interest beyond the descriptive art historical approach. This selected topic explores the Buddha Images of Thailand and evaluates the power that these images have over what it means to be a member of a community, of what it means to be Thai and what it means to exert power, how they connect the faithful not only with a Buddhist past in northern India but with histories of local communities and great kingdoms alike.

Above all, Buddha Images of Thailand offers another way to view the landscape of Thailand as sacred geography or Buddhascape. Although an art historical approach is utilized, this course foregrounds and examines the social and political aspects of the image, placing it in its wider historical context.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
THS 409

Host Institution Course Title
SELECTED TOPICS IN THAI STUDIES: THE PRESIDING GAZE: BUDDHA IMAGES OF THAILAND

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department
Course Last Reviewed 2024-2025

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