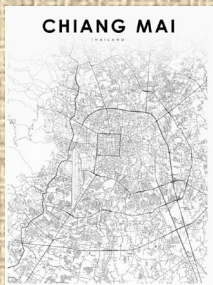


# **Maymester in Chiang Mai**

## **2026**

## **Thailand**

### **✦ Program Prospectus ✦**



#### FACULTY:

**Todd Lewis**

**Mat Schmalz**

**Prista Ratanapruck**



# HOLY CROSS MAYMESTER PROGRAM IN THAILAND, 2026

## PLANNING

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
<u>May 24</u> <i>Students arrive at Suvarna Bhumhi Airport, Bangkok</i>  <i>Welcome Dinner</i>  <i>Bangkok Hotel</i>	<u>May 25</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> Orientations and Rules Introduction to Thai Geography and History [1]  <b>Afternoon Program:</b> Walking Tour: Wats, Hindu temples, Churches  <b>Evening Program:</b> <b>Night market Dining</b> <i>Bangkok Hotel</i>	<u>May 26</u> <b>Program:</b> Visit to Suan Mokkh Bangkok Visit to National Museum Visit to Amulet market  <b>Afternoon Program:</b> Boat trip on Chao Praya River  <i>Bangkok Hotel</i>	<u>May 27</u> <b>Morning</b> Train to Chiang Mai Dep 9 AM-Arr 7:30 PM  <i>Chiangmai Guest House →</i>	<u>May 28</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> Lecture: Buddha <b>Afternoon Program:</b> Lecture: Buddha's Teachings: Dharma  <b>Evening Program:</b> Wat Visit Commissioning a Buddha Image [1]	<u>May 29</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> Buddhist Meditation: Doctrine and Theory <b>Afternoon Program:</b> Buddhist Meditation Program <b>Evening Program</b> Scavenger Hunt for Material Culture	<u>May 30</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> Lecture: Hindu History and Doctrines  <b>Afternoon Program:</b> Lecture: Hinduism in Practice  <b>Evening Program</b> Hindu Temple Visit
<u>May 31</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> Wat Visit in Early AM  <b>Afternoon Program:</b> Free <b>Evening Program</b> Lecture: Merit Making and Buddhist Ritual Traditions	<u>June 1</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> Lecture: Buddhist Art: Functions and Traditions <b>Afternoon Program:</b> Lectures: Religion in Thai Cinema Women in Thai Society	<u>June 2</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> Field Trip: Nature Preserve  <b>Evening Program</b> Lecture: Mountains and Valleys in Thai History  <i>Overnight in Park Guesthouse</i>	<u>June 3</u> National Park Tour  Bus back to Chiang Mai	<u>June 4</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> Lecture: Spirits & Ghost Traditions <b>Afternoon Program:</b> Visit to a Spirit Shrine and Shrine house makers	<u>June 5</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> Lecture: Amulets in Thai Buddhism  <b>Afternoon Program:</b> Scavenger hunt for Amulets	<u>June 6</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> Lecture: Buddhist Pilgrimage <b>Afternoon Program:</b> Pilgrimage Field Trip to Chiang Rai [5 hrs] <b>Evening Program:</b> <i>Dinner; Chiang Rai Guest house</i>
<u>June 7</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> Wat Visits Pilgrimage Site Visits <b>Late Afternoon :</b> Return to Chiangmai [5 hrs] Movies shown enroute	<u>June 8</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> Free <b>Afternoon Program:</b> Lecture: Christianity in Asia And Thai History <b>Evening Program</b> Church Visit	<u>June 9</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> Lecture: Sikh Tradition <b>Afternoon Program:</b> Visit to a Gurudwara Temple <b>Evening Program</b> Buddha Image [3]	<u>June 10</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> Lecture: The Economics of Buddhist Monasticism <b>Afternoon Program:</b> Free <b>Evening Program</b> /Movie Night/	<u>June 11</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> Lecture: Overview of Islam and Islam in Thailand <b>Afternoon Program:</b> Mosque visit	<u>June 12</u> <b>Program:</b> Day trip to Wat Phra That Hariphunchai and Wat Phra That Lampang Luang	<u>June 13</u> Free
<u>June 14</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> Research Project Discussions <b>Evening Program</b> /Movie Night/	<u>June 15</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> Lecture: Monarchy, Buddhism, National Identity <b>Afternoon Program:</b> Free	<u>June 16</u> <i>Free for Research Project Work</i>	<u>June 17</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> Buddha Image Consecration Ritual and Discussion	<u>June 18</u> <i>Free for Research Project Completion</i>	<u>June 19</u> <b>Program:</b> Students Present their Research Projects <b>Evening Program</b> Farewell Dinner	<u>June 20</u> <b>Morning Program:</b> <i>Rituals for Safety and Travel</i> <b>Afternoon Program:</b> <i>Group flight to BKK</i>

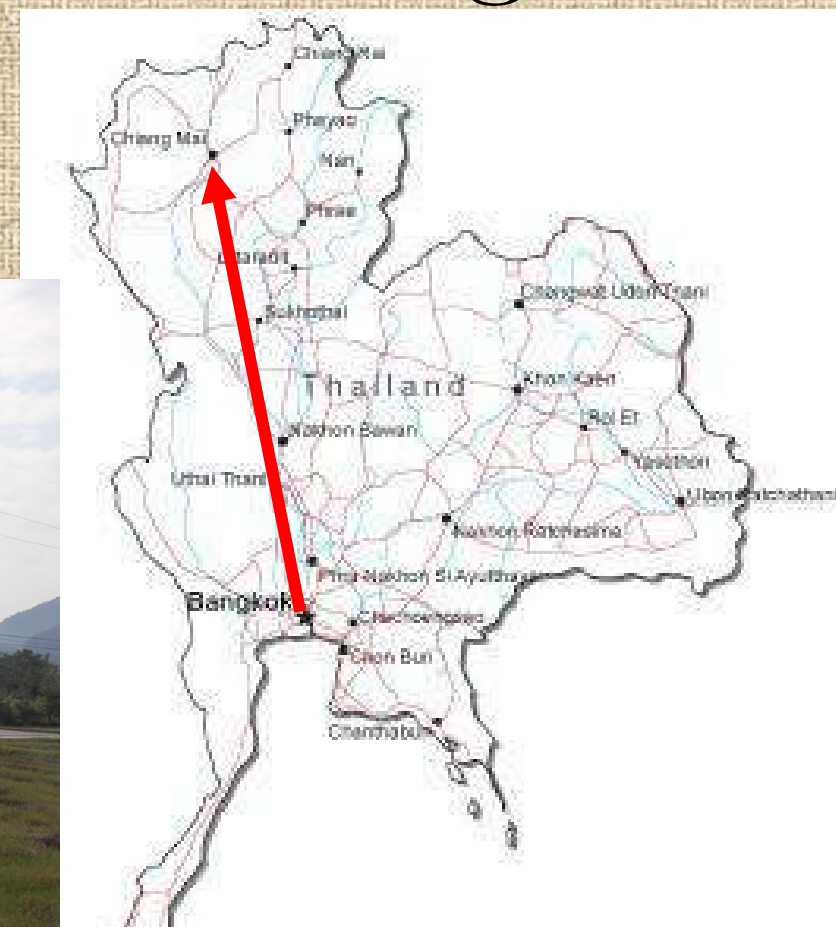
# Bangkok:

## Arrival and First Days



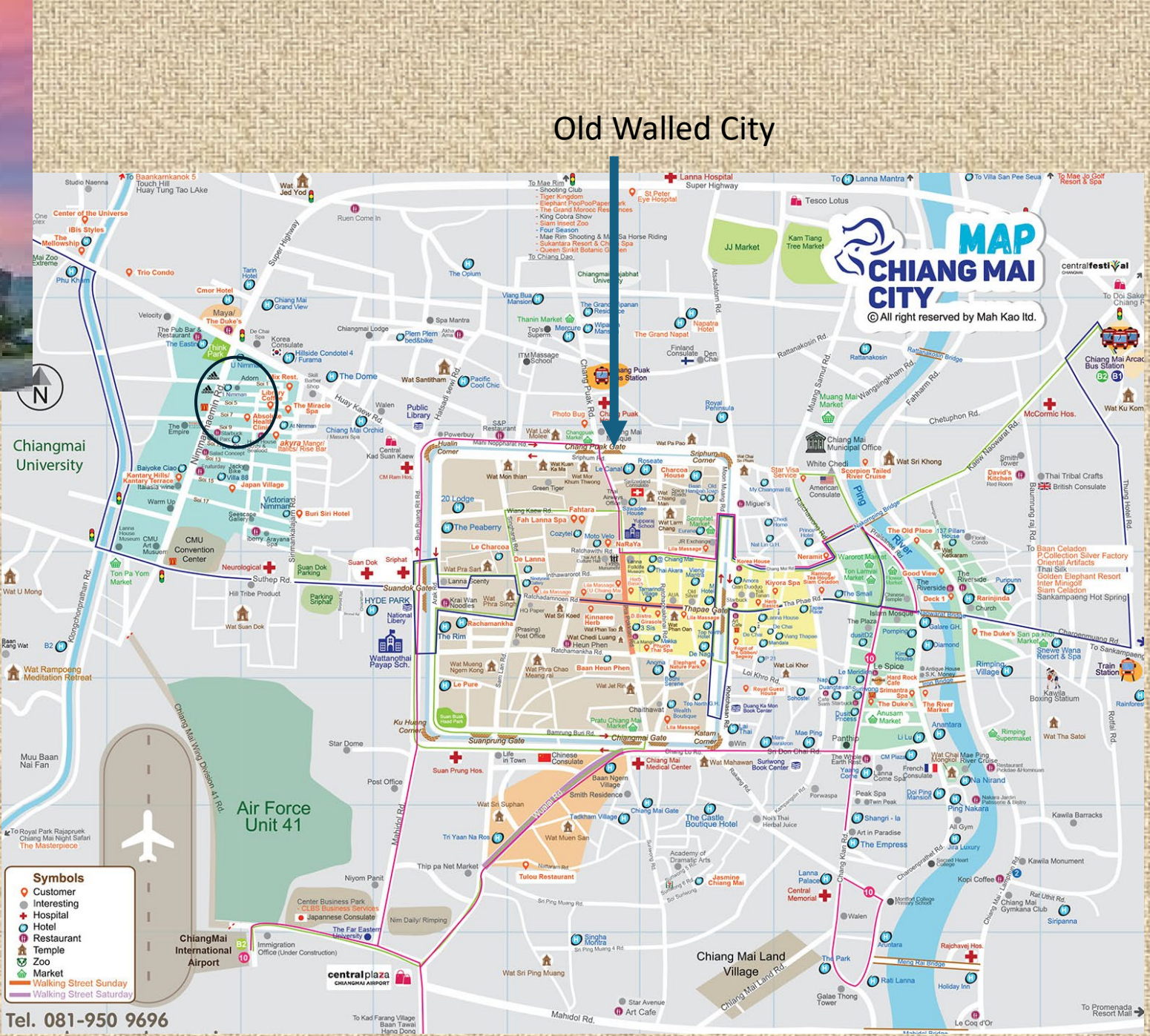
Day 3:

# Train to Chiang Mai





# Hotel Check in: Travelodge Niman





# Hotel Travelodge Niman



- 24 hour front desk
- Cable/Satellite TV
- Fitness Center
- Restaurant
- Room Service
- Property confirms they are implementing guest safety measures
- In room safe
- Internet Access - Free Public Access
- Laundry Service
- Property cleaned with disinfectant

# Hotel Travelodge Niman



Travelodge Nimman  
89 Chonprathan Rd , [Chiang Mai](#), 50200, [Thailand](#)



**Travelodge**  
NIMMAN

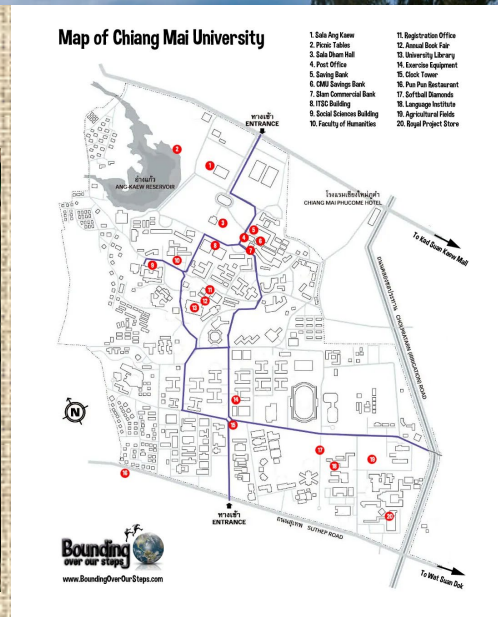
**BUGGY SERVICE**  
07:00 – 00:00 hrs.  
บริการรถบักกี้ รับ - ส่ง ลูกค้า

Travelodge Nimman to Nimmanhaemin Road (Suk Kasame) / Soi 6  
โรงแรม Travelodge Nimman ไป ถนนนิมมานเหมินท์ ซอยสุขเกษม หรือ ซอย 6



# Hotel Travelodge Niman

**Proximity to Nimad Rd. Night markets and Chiang Mai University**



# Chiang Mai University Affiliation

**Libraries, Health Services, Athletic Facilities, Campus**

# **Program Highlights**

**World Religions**

**Religious Art**

**Anthropology of Religion**



# **Buddhism: Practices, Meditation, Architecture, Art**

# 75 *Wats* (Monasteries) in Old Chiang Mai City

Explore!

- <https://doorswindowsblog.wordpress.com/lanna-murals-in-the-75-temples-of-chang-mais-old-town/>

# Other World Religions....



**Islam**



**Sikhism**



**Hinduism**



**Chinese Religions**



## Christian Traditions in Thailand



## Spirit Cults



## Art Masters: Painting and Sculpture

**ช่างหล่อพระล้านนา**  
Casting Craftsman of Lanna Buddha

การหล่อพระแบบโบราณ "ช่างหล่อ" ซึ่งเป็นช่างที่สืบทอดมาจากรุ่นสู่รุ่น วิชาหล่อพระแบบโบราณนี้ มีอยู่ไม่กี่คนในประเทศไทย ด้วยเอกลักษณ์เฉพาะตัว การสร้างพระพุทธรูปขึ้นด้วยมือช่างหล่อพระแบบโบราณนี้ เป็นการหล่อพระแบบโบราณ ที่เรียกว่า "การหล่อพระแบบโบราณ" หรือ "Lost Wax" process

สืบทอดรุ่นสู่รุ่นวิธีหล่อพระแบบโบราณ  
นานมากกว่า ๑๕๐ ปี

การหล่อพระ คือกรรมวิธีการปั้นและหล่อพระแบบโบราณ ซึ่งเกิดจากภูมิปัญญาความรู้ของคนไทยแต่ยุคโบราณในการนำแร่ธาตุต่างๆ มาหล่อหลอมเพื่อสร้างสรรคานศิลปกรรมและรูปเคารพตามคติความเชื่อทางศาสนา

เลขที่ 93 ถ.ช่างหล่อ ต.หายยา อ.เมือง จ.เชียงใหม่ 081-8827178

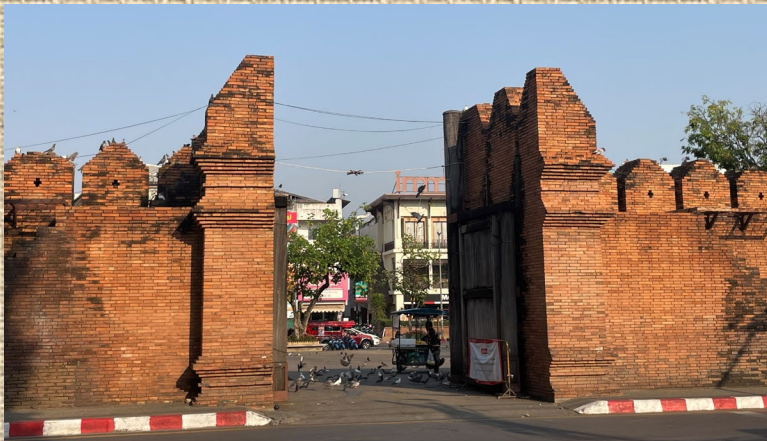
ช่างหล่อพระล้านนา เชียงใหม่ - สล่าอิด  
www.facebook.com/castingcraftsmenoflanna



# Art History, Religious Art

# Ritual Studies





# Urban Anthropology

# Hands-On Learning

- Field visits to temples, mosques, and shrines
- Participate in rituals, art-making, and meditation
- Final research project supported by local student partners



# Extraordinary Travel Experiences

- Riverboat journey to Ayutthaya
  - Explore Bangkok by water
  - Scenic train ride to Chiangmai through changing landscapes
- Elephant ride in national parks





# Local Collaborations

- Scholar guest speakers
- Full access to campus facilities
- Paired with Chiangmai University students for cultural exchange
- Language and research support



# *Who Should Go on the Thailand Maymester?*

Open to all undergraduates

Especially for students interested in:

**Asian Studies | Anthropology | Sociology |  
History | Art History | Studio Art | Religion  
Environmental Studies | Urban Studies**



# More than travel—

it's a journey into the heart of Southeast Asia's cultural and spiritual diversity.

*Kathina*: Annual Buddhist Robe Offering



Money trees and royal barges: What do they have to do with what Buddhist monks wear?

CR PHOTO: 77kaoded