

# HMONG DIASPORA STUDIES, UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE

The Hmong Diaspora Studies undergraduate certificate program provides students with a multidisciplinary perspective on Hmong history, culture, and contemporary life.

Wisconsin and the upper Midwest are home to large concentrations of Hmong Americans, making this area of study particularly relevant to UWM students. Political unrest and international wars forced many Hmong from Laos to leave their native land during the last quarter of the twentieth century and seek refuge in foreign nations. Hmong populations can now be found throughout the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. Each area has its own distinct social, cultural, economic, and political conditions.

The certificate program includes courses about Hmong history, language, and culture, as well as classes that discuss the societal differences encountered by Hmong people. The certificate complements many different types of majors and is valuable for individuals who intend to work with the Hmong population in careers such as social work, education, public administration, law, journalism, international affairs, travel and hospitality, and global business.

UWM students have in recent years traveled to Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam to complement their classroom experience with a study abroad trip.

Certificates are similar to minors in terms of credit requirements but draw on coursework from multiple fields of study rather than from a single department.

## Eligibility

The Hmong Diaspora Studies Undergraduate Certificate is open to all students seeking a bachelor's degree from UWM, to students who previously received a bachelor's degree from UWM or any other accredited college or university, and to those who do not plan to pursue a college or university degree (non-degree students) but who have a strong interest in this subject. To be admitted as a non-degree student, the individual must meet regular UWM admission requirements. Students currently involved in baccalaureate studies who successfully complete the requirements of the program will be awarded the certificate at the time of graduation. Students who already have a bachelor's degree and non-degree students will receive the certificate upon completion of the program requirements.

## Requirements

To obtain the certificate, the student must complete, with a minimum grade point average of 2.500, at least 18 credits in approved Hmong diaspora studies courses as indicated below. Of the 18 required credits, 12 must be taken in the College of Letters and Science, and at least six of them should be at the 300 level or above. No more than nine credits from any one curricular area may count toward the certificate. Twelve of the 18 required credits must be earned in residence at UWM. Of these 12 credits, nine must be taken at the 300 level or above. A maximum of six credits in independent study may count toward program requirements. Courses for the certificate may not be taken on a credit/no credit basis.

Independent study courses focusing on Hmong cultural groups may be accepted with the approval of the certificate program committee. Other courses that are not on the lists below but relevant to the study of Hmong people in the US and other parts of the world may be accepted with the approval of the certificate program committee.

Credits earned at other institutions equivalent to courses in the certificate program may be accepted in partial fulfillment of the program requirements with the approval of the certificate program committee. Students currently enrolled at UWM who have fulfilled some of the program's requirements prior to the creation of the program may have their credits applied retroactively to the certificate program.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
ETHNIC/HMONG 265	Hmong Americans: History, Culture, and Contemporary Life	3
Select 1 semester of Hmong language and/or literacy		3
Select one of the following:		3
HIST 287	The Vietnam War	
HIST 402	Topics in Asian History: (with appropriate subtitle; consult Program Coordinator)	
<b>Electives</b>		
Select 9 credits from the list of approved courses <sup>1</sup>		9
Total Credits		18

<sup>1</sup> At least 6 of which must be selected from courses with a primary focus on Hmong cultural groups.

## Approved Elective Courses

### Primary Focus on Hmong Cultural Groups

Code	Title	Credits
ENGLISH 192	First-Year Seminar: (Hmong American Life Stories)	3
ENGLISH 277	Introduction to Ethnic Minority Literature: (Hmong-American Literature)	3
ETHNIC 265	Hmong Americans: History, Culture, and Contemporary Life	3
ETHNIC 350	Advanced Topics in Comparative Ethnic Studies: (Hmong Diasporic Communities)	3
ETHNIC 299	Ad Hoc: (with Hmong-related subtitle)	1-6
ETHNIC 499	Ad Hoc: (with Hmong-related subtitle)	1-6
ETHNIC 699	Advanced Independent Work	1-3
FLL 103	First Semester of an Uncommonly-Taught Language: (Hmong)	1-4
FLL 104	Second Semester of an Uncommonly-Taught Language: (Hmong)	3-4
FLL 203	Third Semester of an Uncommonly-Taught Language: (Hmong)	3-4
FLL 204	Fourth Semester of an Uncommonly-Taught Language: (Hmong)	3-4
HIST 297	Study Abroad: (Exploring Laos – History and Culture)	1-12
HIST 377	Modern China (Exploring Laos – History and Culture)	3

HMONG XXX	All courses in the Hmong curricular area
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### Secondary Focus on Hmong Cultural Groups

Code	Title	Credits
ANTHRO 150	Multicultural America <sup>1</sup>	3
ANTHRO 250	Women's Roles in Cross-Cultural Perspective	3
ARTHIST 386	Art, Ritual, and Ethnicity of China	3
ENGLISH 150	Multicultural America <sup>1</sup>	3
ENGLISH 192	First-Year Seminar: (Southeast Asian American Life Stories)	3
ETHNIC 102	Transnational Migrations: Asian-, Arab-, Euro-American and Latino Identity	3
ETHNIC 250	Selected Topics in Ethnic Studies: (with appropriate subtitle)	3
HIST 150	Multicultural America <sup>1</sup>	3
HIST 269	Asian Americans in Historical Perspective	3
HIST 287	The Vietnam War (if not selected above)	3
HIST 372	Topics in Global History: (with appropriate subtitle)	3
HIST 402	Topics in Asian History: (with appropriate subtitle) (if not selected above)	3
HIST 436	Immigrant America Since 1880	3
SOCIOL 150	Multicultural America <sup>1</sup>	3
WGS 150	Multicultural America <sup>1</sup>	3

<sup>1</sup> Students may count credits in just one of these courses toward the certificate.

### Contact Information

Current Students contact Professor Chia Vang, [vangcy@uwm.edu](mailto:vangcy@uwm.edu)  
 Prospective Students contact a Letters & Science Admissions Counselor at  
 (414) 229-7711 or [let-sci@uwm.edu](mailto:let-sci@uwm.edu)

<http://uwm.edu/hmong-diaspora-studies/>