The purpose of this interdisciplinary Mayterm program is to cultivate a greater cross-cultural understanding of the links between faith, justice and globalization through an exploration of human trafficking issues and direct encounters with those attempting to respond to this complex problem within the United States and abroad. The program will begin with an intensive week-long class component in San Francisco followed by a four-week travel seminar/service-learning component in Thailand and Cambodia. The overall aim of the program is to expose students--intellectually, reflectively and experientially--to differing cultural contexts as well as to a contemporary global issue with considerable social and theological implications. Drawing on a wide range of disciplinary perspectives
and the developed involvements/expertise of the faculty leader around these topics, it is a program that embodies a liberal arts vision consistent with both the mission of the college and the Thinking Globally/Serving Society Enacting Justice GE learning outcomes. For it is a program that involves cross-cultural immersion experiences designed to foster greater appreciation for the challenges of living in a complex, diverse world while also providing students with opportunities to gain a deeper awareness of a significant social justice issue and to develop their skills in the exercise of empathy, compassion and solidarity with the “least of” those among us.

The program will involve two required courses (for a total of six units) and will be taught organically as a whole: a) a four-unit seminar, *Faith, Justice and Globalization: Human Trafficking*; and b) a two-unit companion seminar, *Southeast Asian History, Culture and Religious Experience*. Together these courses will provide students with both an in-depth understanding of a specific social problem as well as an introduction to the socio-cultural contexts within which they will be engaged. Among the activities that will help to fill out this integrative living-learning experience are:

- Regularly scheduled site visits, guest speaker presentations and group discussions as well participation in selected arts and cultural events.

- Weekly service project days with human trafficking partner agencies in Thailand and Cambodia and debrief reflection times afterwards.

- Ongoing community-building exercises and group worship/prayer times focused on attending to both the inward and outward aspects of the shared journey.

- Extensive reflective writing assignments, including reading response memos and journal submissions in response to professor prompts.

- A final oral class presentation or artistic performance and an integrative paper that addresses notable issues, themes and experiences encountered.

Among the corresponding GE expectations these combined course activities will seek to address are as follows:

**Thinking Globally**

- To help students identify cultural differences and their socio-historical influences; to recognize the value and significance of other cultures without romanticizing the “other;” to recognize global inequalities, injustices and inter-religious issues while showing an appropriate sense of limits regarding one’s own global understanding; to approach all that is different with an increased measure of humility, respect and graciousness; to reflect on the complexities of cross-cultural engagement and give voice to more thoughtful, concrete Christian faith responses/commitments amidst the many tensions involved.
To help students gain a deeper awareness of justice issues related to social class, gender, ethnicity, the environment and the impact of technology; to identify some of the particular needs of human trafficking victims and the causes, effects/affects resulting from them; to develop a deeper awareness for the personal and structural dimensions of injustice and how people of faith (and others) are addressing these; to reflect on one’s own theological motivations for service and understanding the difference between charity (standing over) and empathy/solidarity (standing with) in response to human need.