

Hmong and Hmong-American Studies Certificate

Hmong history reaches thousands of years into the past. The Chinese word for Hmong is Miào (𡗗), which consists of the radical for grain/grass (艹) above the character for field (田). Anthropologists, historians and archaeologists have concluded that Hmong people were one of the first rice cultivators in China. Prior to 1975, Hmong people were restricted to China and countries in mainland Southeast Asia. But in the aftermath of the Vietnam War, thousands have emigrated around the globe: to Europe, North and South America, and Australia.

Hmong-Americans are first-generation refugee immigrants from Laos and their descendants. Since 1975, Hmong Americans have established vibrant communities across the country from Massachusetts to California and from Alaska to Florida. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the U.S. is home to 270,000 Hmong-Americans - nearly half live in the upper Midwest. In Wisconsin and Minnesota, there are approximately 116,000 Hmong-Americans, roughly 43% of the total Hmong-American population. Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Indiana host smaller Hmong-American communities.

Housed in the Department of Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, the **Hmong and Hmong-American Studies Certificate** offers an excellent opportunity for students to learn about this rich culture and history. Through a set of carefully-structured courses, students will use a critical lens to explore topics related to Hmong studies, including but not limited to the following:

- Human prehistory
- History in China and Southeast Asia
- Colonialism
- Cold war conflicts
- Refugee movements
- Transnational migration
- Tourism, globalization and development
- Adaptation to Western societies: Enculturation and cultural renewal
- Religion and religious change
- Language
- Identity development and formation
- Global citizenship and global identity
- Ongoing contributions of Hmong people to contemporary society

The goal of the Hmong and Hmong-American Studies Certificate is to prepare students to be critical thinkers, effective communicators, and constructive agents of change. Study abroad trips may provide additional opportunities for field research and experiential learning.

Program requirements

(All colleges, open only to degree-seeking UWL students)

15-17 credits

Code	Title	Credits
Core		9
RGS 100	Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Class	
RGS/ANT 362	Hmong Americans	

RGS 490	RGSS Senior Capstone	
Electives		6-8
ANT 196	Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology	
ANT 215	Refugees, Displaced Persons and Transnational Communities	
ANT 351	Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia	
CST 337	Communication and Race	
HIS 316	The Vietnam War Era	
HIS 382	Imperialism in Asia and the Pacific	
HMG 204	Hmong Heritage Language: Intermediate	
HMG 304	Hmong Heritage Language: Advanced	
RGS 350	Asian American Studies in Race, Gender, and Sexuality	
TSL 345	Intercultural Interactions	
Total Credits		15-17

To complete the certificate program, a candidate must earn a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA for course work in the certificate.