

## **Education and Development in Southeast Asia**

Walter P. Dawson, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Comparative Education  
International Christian University (Tokyo)

### **Course Description**

This course will introduce graduate students to the study of education and development in Southeast Asia with a special focus on Cambodia as part of the Lehigh graduate program in Cambodia. Students will learn about the cultural and historical development of education in the greater Asian region, Southeast Asia, and “Indochina” (former French colonies) by examining the early development of Buddhist temple schools, Confucian education, and madrasah (Islamic) education as well as the French colonial education system. During the post-independence period the class will turn its attention to the development of national education systems (e.g., Cambodian education) and the interplay of local cultures and governments with globalization and international development agencies (i.e., The UN, World Bank, and international NGOs) in the process of educational expansion.

Students will acquire the background knowledge necessary to prepare themselves for work with the NGO Caring for Cambodia and other education development projects in the region. Ample opportunities will be provided for communication with education development experts at UNESCO Bangkok, UNICEF Phnom Penh, World Bank offices, and local NGOs to learn about the current situation of the education sector at multiple levels. These contacts can be used by students to pursue further internship/employment opportunities either during or upon the completion of their studies. Students will be encouraged to contemplate the historical and cultural foundations of education in Cambodia and the political nature of educational development assistance in their course assignments which relate to the overarching issues for education for all (EFA) in Cambodia and the context-specific challenges for Caring for Cambodia and the local community.

### **Course Format**

The course will be offered online.

**This course will count towards the CIE International Development in Education (IDE) Graduate Certificate.**